HISTORICAL REMARQUES

Upon the late Revolutions in the

UNITED PROVINCES;

Drawn from their own Papers,

And evincing the Necessity of a

STADTHOLDER

To that Government,

As now re-establish'd in his Highness,

The present

Prince of ORANGE.

In the *SAVOY*,

Printed by *Tho. Newcomb*, and are to be sold by *H. Herringman*, at the *Anchor* in the Lower Walk of the *New Exchange*. 1675.

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NO sooner did the *Hollanders*, after many years vexation from the *Spaniards*, find themselves secured from the Danger and Apprehension of falling again under their Power; that their Affairs prospered, and that they who before had Groaned under their Wants and Miseries, were become Rich and Powerful, but they began to forget their Obligations to the House of *Orange*, who, under God, had been the Chief Author of the Good they enjoyed; and no sooner was their weather-beaten Ship

(by which they themselves represented their Distracted State) after having been so long Distressed at Sea, and tossed to and fro by the Tempestuous Waves, arrived in the Port of Safety and Happiness; but a prevailing Party among them, endeavoured to rid themselves of their Pilot, whose great Prudence, Courage, and Conduct, had brought it thither, through so much danger that on all sides had environed it.

The Truce being in the Year 1609. concluded with *Spain*, several of the Regents in *Holland*, began to look with an ill Eye upon the great Authority of the Prince of *Orange*, which his Eminent Services had acquired in the State, and seemed to dislike that great Power in him; though themselves affected a greater. On this ground great Factions were raised, first by one *Charles Roorda*, and afterwards, in the Years 1618. and 1619. by *John van Barnvelt*, not without occasioning many Disorders and Divisions in the Government: for their pretence being to assert the Liberty of the People, and to oppose the growing Greatness of the Prince of *Orange*, many Eminent Persons sided with them, almost to the Eversion of the State, in

its very Infancy, had not the extraordinary Prudence of Prince *Maurits*, (Son to Prince *William*, who brought the first Assistance to the *United Provinces*) prevented it, who, by the Imprisonment and Death of the said *Barnevelt*, for that time put a stop to so great an evil; however, this Fire was not so wholly extinguished, but several hidden Sparks still remained, which the Wise Conduct of the said Prince *Maurits*, and after him his Brother Prince *Hendrick Fredericke*, kept from breaking forth during their times; and we may very well believe, that Prince *William* the Second, ~~Son to Prince Hendrick, and Father to his Highness~~, that now is, would likewise, by the greatness of his Spirit and Prudence, have overcome, or composed the same Factions, which appeared during his Government, had he not been snatched away by (to say no worse) an untimely Death.

Peace being finally concluded in 1648. between the King of *Spaine* and the States General, very much to the Honour and Advantage of the latter, who obtained an acknowledgment of their being independant, and absolute

Soveraigns in their own Dominions, which had been for so many years, at the Expence of so much Treasure and Blood, contended for, many in the Government began highly to value themselves, and to attribute all the Success thereof, to their wise direction of affairs. They thought they had no longer need of a Stadtholder, or Captain and Admiral General, for that now they were going to live in an entire Calm and Plenty; That they should be no more Attacked from abroad, nor have occasion of keeping Armies at home, but that their business now, was to live in Plenty, and enjoy the Fruits of past Labours. Besides those, that for the Reasons before mentioned, lookt upon a Stadtholder and Captain General, as altogether unnecessary to the State for the future, and therefore thought it would be better to ease their Country of the great Charge it was at, in maintaining one; there were others who had a more Ambitious Aim, and Designed to transfer the Power of the Prince of *Orange*, to themselves; However, both these having one intention, *viz.* To suppress the House of *Orange*, joined Forces, and laboured together

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on the most specious pretences to effect it.

Not long after the conclusion of the Peace, Prince *Hendrick Frederick* Dyed, and was succeeded by his Son Prince *William*, who, though young, soon discovered, that several were at work to undermine him, and that as his absolute Command over the Militia, was the most essential part of his Authority, and which could only support him against the intrigues of his Enemies, they endeavoured to weaken that; in which they so far succeeded, that they brought the States of *Holland*, contrary to the Advices of all the other Provinces, to resolve to disband the greatest part of the Forces, that were paid by *Holland*, on pretence of the great and insupportable charge they were at to entertain them; and that as the time then was, there seemed not the least appearance of having any farther need of them; hardly leaving Troops sufficient, to Man the several Garrisons. These and other evil Practices of the Faction, began greatly to disturb all sober people, and the other Provinces stuck not to declare, That *Holland*, by this separate disbanding, had Violated the Union.

The Prince of *Orange*, to Remedy these Mischiefs in time, found himself forced, with the Advice of some of his Friends, to seize the Chief Authors of them, being Members of the States of *Holland*, and to send them on the 31. of *July*, 1650. Prisoners to the House at *Louvestain*, from whence they, and those of that Faction, have ever since been called the *Louvestaine Party*.

The Magistrates of *Amsterdam*, at the same time disputing the Princes Authority, and refusing to admit him into their Assembly, which he demanded, not only as their Stadtholder, but by Vertue of a particular Commission from the States-General, (which however, *Holland* had not consented to) in order to the representing to them the inconveniences of the said disbanding, and the breach of the Union in it; for that the Province of *Holland* acted therein, contrary to the Sentiments of all the other Provinces; he marched on the second of *August*, with his Forces against that City, and obliged it to submit, removing out of the Magistracy the two *Bickers*, his declared Enemies. The Example of this great City, had an influence upon all the others, and the imprisoned

prisoned Lords seeing themselves unable to go through with their designs, reconcil'd themselves to his Highness, and were released, but not received into any of their former Stations, till after his Highness death.

In this manner his Highness, by his great courage and prudence, seemed to have suppressed the Faction, that had disturbed the very beginning of his Government; and had not death prevented him, would, without all doubt, have setled the State in peace and quietness, at the cost of those, who, by the jealousies and divisions they raised, endeavoured to disorder it.

The 6. of *November*, 1650. Prince *William* died, aged twenty four years and six moneths, or thereabouts, leaving his Royal Widow great with Child, who eight days after was happily delivered of a Son, the present Prince of *Orange*, *William* the 3d.

The death of the Prince, at a time when the Enemies of that Illustrious House had so openly declared themselves, occasioned great trouble and affliction to all good men; for they easily foresaw, the advantage the *Louvestein* Party would make of it, to accomplish

the Design they had already contrived, to deprive the Prince of *Orange* of the great part, his Ancestors had so worthily held in the Government; They foresaw the great disorder this intended change would beget, and the danger it threatned to the whole Commonwealth, which had so happily flourished under the Government of the Princes of *Orange*.

Those of the contrary party could not, at the same time, forbear publickly expressing the joy the death of his Highness gave them, whom they charged with having aspired to an absolute Sovereignty over the Seven Provinces, and to enslave the People thereof to his own Will; and boasted, that this great obstacle being removed, they would now raise the Liberty of the Subject to a greater height than ever, and restore the State to its first Honour and Pureness.

No design can be better carried on, than under the pretence of Religion, and Liberty; of which latter, while men are most desirous, it often happens, that eagerly pressing for more, than the constitution of the Government they live under allows them, they

loose

looſe even that which they before enjoyed. And that this was the caſe of thoſe, who being flattered by the ſpecious pretences of the *Louveſtein* Party, favoured and aſſiſted them in their deſigns, time has ſhown.

Of all Governments in the World, Monarchy is certainly the beſt; and beſides the nobleneſs of its form above all others, moſt conducing to the honour, welfare, and greatneſs of a People; of which, to omit the reſt, this may be one argument, That there are not even any Republicks or Common-wealths of any conſideration that we know of, in the Government of which, ſome one Perſon for Honour and Authority is not eminent above all others. Thus the *Venetians* and *Genoueſes* have their *Doge*, though with different Power, according to their ſeveral Conſtitutions. And the *Low Countreys* had, in former times, an *Earl* or *Governour*; and ſince the new eſtabliſhment of their Republick, a *Stadtholder*, and *Captain*, and *Admiral General*.

Not to trouble our ſelves with an enquiry into the Reaſons that have moved other Republicks (of which many may be given) to make choice of

a Duke,

a Duke, or some Illustrious Person, to be, as it were, the Head of the State, we will onely speak of what concerns the *United Provinces*, and observe the necessity there is of their having a Governour or Stadtholder, in order to their peace and welfare; out of a *Dutch* Author, who has lately given these Four principal Reasons.

1. For that the antient order and form of the Government of the *Low-Countreys* under an *Earl* or *Stadtholder*, preserved the greatest agreement and harmony possible amongst the several Members of it, being founded on *Monarchy*, *Aristocracy*, and *Democracy*; the first represented by the *Earl* or *Stadtholder*, the second by the *States*, and the third by the *Vroetschappen*, (which are like the Common Halls in *London*) each of these serving as a check to the other, and providing against the extremities either of them might run into. That this form of Government was established in *Holland* and *Zealand* above 800 years since, which was never violated, but with extreme danger of the whole State, but being preserved from any encroachments on the one side or the other, the Inhabitants flourished in peace and plenty. 2. For

2. For that the Majesty of the State is better represented by some Noble and Illustrious person, who is the Chief, than by many equals in the Government, and commands more respect and veneration, as well from Forreigners as its own Subjects, who are very much awed by the outward appearances, and pleased to see the honour and greatness of their Countrey made publick, by the splendor and magnificence of a *Stadtholder* or Governour.

3. For that the great mischiefs which arise from a many-headed Government, are most notorious, and have often occasioned the utter ruine of it: It being not to be avoided, but that, while the several Members that compose the State are all equals, and of different interests and dispositions, either through particular advantage, or difference in opinions, great divisions and disorders will arise between them, to the extraordinary prejudice of the Common-weal, which can onely be prevented or composed by some Third and Neutral Person, who for his quality and authority is so far respected by them, that they are willing to submit their

their differences to his decision, and to acquiesce in the judgment he shall give. Of the truth hereof, the States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland* have heretofore been so throughly convinced, that they have on several occasions declared, that without a *Stadtholder*, or some eminent Person representing the Head of the State, the Provinces could not maintain their Union with one another, nor peace and concord within themselves. And this experience hath confirmed, by the examples of former times, and particularly by what happened during the faction of *Koorda* and *Barneveli*, which had raised so great a storm in the State, that without the prudent conduct of the Prince of *Orange*, it is probable it would have suffered a great convulsion, and perhaps, after having been weakned by intestine troubles, become a prey to its enemies.

4. For that, where several Provinces and Cities govern together with the same power and authority, and they all have, in some respects, different interests, and designs; it is impossible but their debates must be slow, and their counsels directed to several ends, which makes

makes it long ere they can resolve, and easie for Strangers to discover the most secret resolutions, the designs of the State protracted and delayed, and even many times wholly frustrated; of which, many instances could be given. Amongst the Provinces and Cities, the most powerful are apt to over-rule the others, to the prejudice of the Union, which allows the weakest Province as free a voice, and as absolute a power to give or refuse its consent to any thing that is proposed in the Assembly of the States General, as any other which is more considerable for its strength and riches. Upon any difference that happens between them, being all equals, there is none to determine it, but the most powerful Forces, the rest to submit to what it thinks fit. These inconveniences and mischiefs can be onely remedied by a *Stadtholder*, to whom it belongs to compose all misunderstandings that may arise between the Provinces, to hold the Balance equally and indifferently between them, to take care that the one usurp not over the other, but that the Priviledges, Rights, and Preheminences of the several Members of

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the State be preserved entire, without any violation the one from the other. And lastly, none but the *Stadtholder*, and Captain and Admiral General can, with the diligence and secrecy necessary, execute the designs of the State, either against its Enemies abroad, or for the preservation of the Publick Peace at home; and make provision for its defence against such dangers as may threaten it.

This is the part of the *Stadtholder*, under whose Government the *United Provinces*, for so many years, maintained a heavy War against the King of *Spain*, so powerful and so formidable, as he was at that time, with honour and advantage to themselves, and loss and disgrace to their Enemies, were esteemed and courted by their Neighbours, who coveted their friendship; Unity and quiet was preserved at home; if any Factions happed to arise, they were soon composed, and all farther mischiefs the consequence of them, happily prevented. But on the other hand it is manifest, what troubles and divisions at home, and Wars from abroad have attended the exclusion of the present Prince of *Orange* from the

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Stadtholderſhip, and the command of Captain and Admiral General, ſo far, that the *United Provinces* were forced to bow, and in danger of being totally oppreſſed by them, had it not pleaſed God, by the re-eſtabliſhment of his Highneſs, likewiſe to reſtore them, letting them ſee a ſecond time, that he had made the Houſe of *Orange* the Inſtrument of their deliverance out of the hands of their Enemies, that were upon the point of utterly deſtroying them.

But to return. The death of Prince *William* gave new life to the *Louveſtein* Party; the Lords that had been impriſoned reſumed their former places and employments, being cried up for Patriots, and defenders of the Publick Liberty; and thoſe were every where put into the Magiſtracies and Regencies, that had before been diſcountenanced by his Highneſs, as Authors of diviſions and diſcord amongſt the Provinces; ſo that the chief Government of the Province of *Holland* ſoon fell into the hands of the *Louveſteiners*: and what remained for them then to do, but to accompliſh their old deſign of ſuppreſſing the Houſe of *Orange*, which they endeavoured to effect;

By

By leſſening and defaming the great and memorable actions of the Prince of *Orange*, and the extraordinary ſervices that Family had rendred the State, and by reproaching them of ambition, and an aſpiring to an abſolute Sovereignty, ſo far, that ſeveral Books and Libels were ſent abroad, full of malicious aſperſions, and moſt diſingenious falſities, in order to the making, if poſſible, the name of *Orange* odious to the people.

By removing all thoſe that were ſuſpected of favouring that Noble Family, out of all Places and Offices in the Government, which were ſupplied by the Friends and Relations of the *Louveſtein* Party, who had given proof of their diſaffection to his Highneſs.

By disbanding moſt of the old Troops, who, it was thought, would always retain the kindneſs and affection they had for his Highneſs Father and Grandfather, under whoſe conduct they had obtained ſo many Victories and Succeſſes, and would, on all occaſions, be ready to expreſs the ſame in their endeavours for his Highneſs advancement, from whom alone they could expect the reward of their paſt ſervices; for from the States they could

could not promiſe themſelves any, after ſo great ingratitude to their General, who had ſo eminently deſerved of them.

And laſtly, by flattering the Regents of the ſeveral Cities, with an abſolute Authority within themſelves, great part of which had, as was ſaid, been uſurped by the Princes of *Orange*; that the nomination of their Magiſtrates ſhould reſt intirely in their own hands, and the diſpoſal of all other things, which the *Stadtholder* had before aſſumed to himſelf.

In proſecution likewiſe of this deſign, Alliances were made with Foreign States, and particularly with the Uſurper *Cromwel*, to whom they obliged themſelves never to advance the Prince of *Orange* to the Dignities and Commands poſſeſſed by his Anceſtors; not but that before they had ſufficiently reſolved with themſelves never to do it, but that a new and plauſible obligation might ſeem to be laid upon them, to tie them up from a thing they never intended.

In *March* 1656. the States of *Holland* paſſed a Reſolution, by which they commanded, That, whereas it had been formerly

formerly practiſed, ſpeaking or writing of the Prince of *Orange*, to ſay or write onely, *His Highneſs*, as a particular mark of honour and reſpect; for the future, the Title of *Highneſs* ſhould never be given, but when the name of *Prince of Orange* preceded, to which it might be added as a Relative.

The Miniſters were ordered to omit praying for his Highneſs in their Churches, as had been always practiſed, and certain forms of Prayer preſcribed them.

The Arms and Colours of the Princes of *Orange*, that had for many years been ſet up in the Cities, were pulled down, broken, and defaced; and all other means poſſible made uſe of, to leſſen the eſteem and reſpect, as well as affection the people had ever had, for their Protectors and Defenders.

While thus in *Holland* the *Louveſtein* Party became ſolely poſſeſſed of the Government, and ordered all matters according to their own pleaſure, the Prince lay yet in his Cradle, or was of very tender years, and could not yet pretend to the *Stadtholderſhip*, and the Commands of Captain and Admiral General,

General, and therefore the great care was, so to dispose things in the mean time, as to render his pretensions fruitless, when he should come to age. It was not enough they were secure of *Holland*, having gotten the Magistracies of the several Cities, and all Offices and Employments in their own hands, unless they could perswade the other Provinces to co-operate with them. To this end great endeavours were used, and no arguments, promises, and flatteries omitted, which might most prevail upon them.

Zealand, in former times, had, upon all occasions, expressed a great affection to the House of *Orange*; witness the Proposals given in to the Grand Assembly, which was held presently after the death of Prince *William*, by its Deputies, by which they among other things declare,

THat the onely means to preserve the Union, which is the foundation of the State, is, to prevent all differences and discords between the Members of it. That it cannot be imagined, that never no differences should arise in a Government, composed of Seven several Free and Sove-

Soverign Provinces, and each of them consisting of sundry Members and Cities, and they represented by Persons of various Interests and Numbers, and also governed by different and peculiar Laws, Constitutions and Customs; That it is likewise scarce possible, that by reason of the difficulties of the matters in deliberation, and difference of apprehensions and understandings, all things should be dispatched with unanimous consent; and that it happens oft-times, that through the discrepancy of opinions, great distractions and contentions are occasioned, unless the same are by some prudent care and wisdom timely obviated. Which can onely be done by the Stadtholders; forasmuch as they being of themselves not much enclined to pronounce Sentence, or make decisions between the principal Members of such a considerable Body, as being willing to avoid all occasions of giving offence, they have commonly endeavoured to compose the differences, by way of intercession and perswasion, which also for the most part hath well succeeded, not onely by reason of the great credit and authority the said Stadtholders were invested with, but also that each Party reflecting on the hazard they run, for that Sentence might

might be given against them, were loth to venture upon a decision by the Stadtholder, *but were brought to an amicable composure.*

And concluded with a request, *That the Stadtholdership, and Captain, and Admiralship General might be conferred upon the Prince, though then an Infant, to be executed by a Lieutenant till he came to age; or at least that the said Dignities and Commands might be bestowed upon him for honour and respect sake, till he came to age.*

And though after the death of some of the Prince's Friends, who had great respect and interest in the Government there, several Cities began to be infected with the *Louvestein* Principles, and particularly the Cities of *Middleburg* and *Tertoken*, who were the first that declared, That the States of *Zealand* ought to follow the steps of *Holland*: Yet this Province in general always retained an inclination to his Highness above any of the rest, and a desire to see him one day advanced to the Honours and Dignities his Ancestors had possessed.

Utrecht, without any hesitation, observed

ſerved the Rules and Maxims preſcribed by *Holland*, and promiſed blindly to concur with it, in all matters whatever; which gave occaſion to ſome to call this Province, *Holland's Ape*.

Gelderland had always been a great defender of the Intereſts of the Princes of *Orange*; but within ſome years, many of the Regents being influenced by thoſe of *Holland*, wholly followed their example.

Over-Iſſel had heretofore ſerved as a pattern of harmony and good agreement to the other Provinces; but preſently after the death of Prince *William*, factions aroſe likewiſe amongſt the Regents, ſo much to the advantage of the *Loveſteins*, that the Deputies which this Province afterwards ſent to the Aſſembly of the States General, the Council of State, and the other Colledges, were all of that Party.

The Provinces of *Friſeland* and *Groninguen*, as having a *Stadtholder* of their own, could never be brought to do any thing in prejudice of the Prince of *Orange*, for that through him they ſhould have wounded the Authority of their own Prince, who being unfortunately killed by the accidental

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diſcharge of a Piſtol, in the year 1664. The endeavours were renewed by thoſe of *Holland*, to debauch that Province; and though they were effectual ſo far, as in ſome meaſure to cool the zeal thoſe Regents had for the Intereſt of the Prince of *Orange*, yet could they never wholly extinguiſh it.

This was the diſpoſition of the ſeveral Provinces, and ſo much were they changed ſince the death of their *Stadtholder* Prince *William*, The Lords of *Holland*, who had thus far wrought their deſign, and obſerved how prevalent their example had been to the other Provinces, by the help of private Friends, which they had taken care to have in all places, begun to form thoughts in themſelves of ruling over the reſt, it being but reaſonable, as they imagin'd, that as *Holland* contributed on all occaſions as much as all the other Provinces together, and was the chief ſupport of the Union, ſo it ought to be conſidered above the other Members of it, and have a larger power in the management of the publick Affairs than the reſt, who lived under its protection and defence. Theſe thoughts were ſoon turned into reſolutions, and

those resolutions executed to that degree, that the Government was quite altered from what it had formerly been. For, from that mixed and happy Government of those Countries, of *States* and *Stadtholder*, after the year 1650. it fell into *Democracy*, by the exclusion of the Prince of *Orange*, and not long after into an *Oligarchy*, when some few Lords onely stood at the Helm, and managed the affairs of State according to their own will and pleasure, or had so influenced, not to say corrupted, all those that were Partners with them in the Government, as that they readily consented to whatever was proposed; and it is but probable, if things had not at last been forced to change their course, this *Oligarchy* would have begot a Monarchy. For one or two men already governed *Holland*, and *Holland* all the other Provinces, threatning them upon any refusal to give their consent, to what *Holland* thought fit to resolve, to put them out of the Union, and leave them to shift for themselves. The Provinces then first found the want of a *Stadtholder*, whose part, as hath been said, it is, to keep the Ballance even between the several

Members

Members of the Union, and the one from incroaching upon the Rights and Liberties of the other.

This, as may well be thought, occasioned great jealousies and animosities in the Minds of those that could not approve of these Proceedings, but they not being in a capacity to declare their publick dislike of them, were forced to bear things patiently, till it should please God otherwise to order them

In the mean time several instances were made to the States, in favour of the Prince of *Orange*, His Majesty of *Great Brittaine* being at the *Hague* in 1660. on his happy return for *England*, pressed his Highness advancement, and obtained a promise of it, so soon as he should come to the Age of Eighteen. The Elector of *Brandenbourg* his Highness Unkle on several occasions, earnestly recommended his Nephew to the care and kindness of the States, though without any great effect.

The Bishop of *Munster* making War upon the States, in 1666, and his Forces obtaining several Advantages, gave the first occasion to a general Murmuring amongst the people; That they who in former times, had so successful-

ly carried on a War againſt the greateſt Potentate, that was then in *Europe*, were now allarm'd and endangered by an Inferiour Prince; and that all this happened, through the want of ſome Illuſtrious Perſon, to Command their Armies in Chief, with the ſame Succeſs, as heretofore, which went ſo far, that all the Provinces except *Holland*, reſolved to confer immediately upon his Highneſs, the Command of Captain General for Life. The Deputies of *Gelderland*, were very zealous in the Matter, and even many Lords of *Holland* aſſiſted them in it. *Zealand* ſtuck not to declare, That not only a Captain-General, but a Stadtholder was abſolutely neceſſary, to moderate the exorbitant Power of *Holland*; and deſired, That the Prince of *Orange* might have a Place allowed him in the Council of State, in order to his being inſtructed in the Affairs of the Government, againſt he came to Age, as had been practiſed in like caſes to ſome of his Anceſtors. About this time the Elector of *Brandenbourg*, writ a fair and obliging Letter to the States General, on the ſame Subject, which the Lords of *Holland* took ſo ill, that their Deputies

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in the general Assembly were ordered, to oblidge the President, after having read the Letter, to put it up immediately in his pocket, without suffering any Debate to be had thereupon, or that Copies of it should be given to the Deputies of the other Provinces, who desired it, to transmit to their Principiples, and to Declare, that they were absolutely forbid, to admit of any Forreign Recommendation, for the advancement of any Person, whoever he might be; That the Person so recommended, ought to be made incapable of holding any Place or Employment in the State, That such Recommendations were to be lookt upon as Seditious, and as intended to raise Divisions and Disorders in the Government, and that the Minister who had delivered that Letter, ought to be deprived of the privilege of his Character, and to be proceeded against, as a Disturber of the publick Peace.

With so much heat did the *Louvestain* Party oppose all Propositals that were made in favour of the Prince of *Orange*, and solemnly declared that they would never consent, that those high Commands of Captain and Admiral Gene-

ral, ſhould be conferred on any perſon whatſoever for Life, but that they ought to be diſpoſed of, every time the State ſhould have occaſion to bring an Army into the Field, or a Fleet of Men of War to Sea, to ſuch perſons, as ſhould for their experience and capacity be beſt able to diſcharge them for the Service of the Common-wealth.

And becauſe it ſeemed very requiſite to have a General to Command the Forces they were to employ againſt the Biſhop of *Munſter*; the Mareſchal *de Turenne*, was propoſed by the *Louveſteiners* for that Command, with the leave of the moſt Chriſtian King, ſo far did their averſion to the Prince, and their zeal for their common liberty carry them, that they would have put the Forces of the State, and conſequently the State it ſelf, into Forreign hands.

However, to give ſome ſatisfaction to *Zealand*, and the other Provinces that favoured the Prince, the Lords of *Holland*, conſented, That his Highneſs ſhould be taken into the Protection of the Republick, as a Child of State, according to the promiſe made to the Princeſs Royal his Mother, who upon her going for *England*, in 1660, committed

mitted the Tuition of her Son, to the *Raedt Pentionary de Wit*, and some others who were lookt upon to be no great favourers of the Houſe of *Orange*, by which her Royal Highneſs ſeemed to endeavour to overcome them with generoſity, and by the confidence ſhe repoſed in them to oblige them to be kind to the young Prince that was committed to their charge, or at leaſt to ceaſe to be his Enemies.

In *April*, 1666. his Highneſs was accordingly received as a Child of State, and put under the care of the Heer of *Noortwyk*, the Heer *Foreſt*, the Heer *Adrian van Blienbourg*, the Heer *van Naeltwyk*, Old Burger Maſter of *Dort*, the Heer *Gillis Valckenier*, Burger Maſter of *Amſterdam*, the *Raedt Pentionary de Wit*, and the Heer *van Ghent*; this latter being particularly appointed his Highneſs Governour; Their buſineſs was to look after his Revenues, to take care of the payment of the Debts, that had been made by the Prince his Father, and to ſee him taught all the Exercises that become a Perſon of his Quality.

Thus the *Louveſtine* Lords thought they had done enough, to ſtop the Mouths of all people, and that indeed

was the only thing they proposed to themselves in it, while amongst themselves they continued their Intrigues and Contrivances, utterly to abolish the Stadtholdership, and a resolution, that if at the instances of the other Provinces, they should at any time be obliged to confer on his H. the Supream Command of the Army, that it should be only for the Expedition, and that with such Limited Power, that he should have the Title, but others the Authority of a General; from whence they promised themselves to draw this Advantage, that whatever success happened, it should be attributed to the Deputies that accompanied the Army, on the part of the State, and in whose hands was the chief, if not sole direction of Affairs, and if any Misfortune, that to be wholly laid upon the ill Conduct, Incapacity, and want of Experience of the General, whose Credit they hoped, by this means, one day to lessen amongst the people, and to render him of no consideration.

A Peace being concluded with the Bishop of *Munster*, and afterwards with His Majesty of *Great Brittaine* in *July* 1667. the *Louvestein* Lords found themselves

selves at greater ease then before, and thought it a proper time, to put the design they had so long in hand, of abolishing the Stadtholdership in execution, and the rather, for that his Highness now approached his Eighteenth year, when they were, by their promise, obliged to put him in possession of those Charges, Dignities, and Commands which had been possessed by his Ancestors.

In order whereunto, their first business was, to employ their Friends in all places, to cry up the present Government, to extol the prudent management of Affairs, the Wisdom and Fidelity of the Ministers, and to magnifie the Advantages that had been obtained to the State, since the year 1650. And to this end, Medals and Pictures were made in many places, in honour of those that had the chief direction of the Common Wealth. They were likewise to insinuate amongst the people, how dangerous a Stadtholder was to their Liberty, and how destructive to Trade, which they said alwayes flourished most, under a pure Democracy. That the Princes of *Orange* had formerly, on several occasions, given proof of

their

their ambitious and aspiring disposition, and that it was not to be doubted, but that his present Highness, if ever he got the same power, would follow the example of his Ancestors, and not being content with the Authority he had, would aim at greater, and that therefore, they who opposed the unlimited and ambitious Designs of the House of *Orange*, were to be lookt upon as the true Patriots of their Country, and the rather, for that therein they had not any aim, to make themselves greater or richer then they already were, but only to preserve that Liberty, which at the expence of so much Charge and Blood, they had so many years fought for, and at last obtained, through the Divine assistance, to which the Princes of *Orange* had no more contributed, then others would have done, that had been made Generals of their Armies; and that they had already had a reward sufficient for their Services, without that the Inhabitants of the *United-Provinces*, after having so dearly purchased their Liberty from the *Spaniards*, should again tamely resign it to the House of *Orange*, who in time would as much tirannise over them, as ever the *Spaniards* had done.

These

These Suggestions, though never so gross and false, could not but have some effect upon the people, and therefore served very well to prepare the way, to what was to follow.

In the mean time the Lords of *Holland*, laboured all they could, to divert the other Provinces, from the thoughts of advancing his Highness, when he should arrive to his Eighteenth year; and for that end they proposed in the Assembly of the *States General*, that seeing the most Christian King by his Conquests in *Flanders*, gave great jealousie to the State, they ought not only to reinforce all their Garrisons towards *Brabant*, but likewise to put an Army into the Field, for their greater security, under the Conduct of some able and experienced General; and at the same time proposed the Heer *Wurts* for that Command, a *Swede* by Birth, and one who had very well behaved himself in the Service of that Crown, as well as of *Denemarke*; the other Provinces, who very well saw, that this was purposely done to prejudice the pretentions of the Prince of *Orange*, and that by reason of his Age, great exceptions might be made against him, they on the other side,

side, named Prince *Maurits* of *Nassaw*, of the House of *Orange*, and one who had performed great Services to the State, *Holland* did not well know how to refuse him, but declared, he was designed for an Embassy to the Emperor and the Empire, for which no body among them, was so fit as himself, and could render the State so much service. By this means, the *Louvestains* gained their Point, and the Sieur *Wurts* was put at the Head of their Army, in Quality of Velt Mareschal General.

But this was not enough, for the *Louvestain* Lords, observing that his Highness grew daily more and more in favour with all people, and gave great hopes, that he would one day be as great an Instrument of the preservation, defence and Peace of his Country, as his Glorious Ancestors had been; and on the other hand, that the Friends of the Prince of *Orange*, would never desist from their sollicitations for his advancement, so long as they saw any Room left to hope for any success; and that the only way to be rid of their importunities, would be, wholly to shut up the way, and to let them see there was no possibility for them to attain their ends.

They

They omited no endeavors to induce the other Provinces, to agree with them in the making of some solemn Act of State, which might frustrate all his Highness's pretentions: but not being able to succeed therein; for *Zealand* declared, that without a Stadtholder, the Union would not be able to consist any longer; that all the other Members thereof, would fall under the Domination of those few Lords that Gouverned *Holland*, and that in all things they should be forced to submit to their Will and Pleasure; they resolved to make an Act amongst themselves, for the utter, abolishing the Stadtholdership in *Holland*, which the *Louvestein* Lords, having their Friends in the Government of the several Cities, and in all Offices and Employments of Consideration, needed not doubt but they should effect at their Pleasure, and that done, the Prince could not expect any great matters of the other Provinces. And not to loose time, in *August* 1667. the States of *Holland* made the *Perpetual Edict*, for the Mortifying the Stadtholdership, as may be at large seen by the Act it self, which here follows.

A Perpetual Edict, and Ever-lasting Law.

THe States of Holland *and* West-Friesland, *in due form Summoned, after Communication and Debate had, in the Assembly of the Ridderschap and Nobles, and in the respective Vroetschappen, have, with the unanimous Consent and Concurrence of all the Members, Resolved and Concluded, as by these Presents they do Resolve and Conclude, for the Defence of the Liberty, and Preservation of Unity and the common Peace, the following Articles, as a perpetual Edict and Everlasting Law.*

I.

That the Power of choosing or Summoning the Members of the Order of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as likewise the nominating and choosing of the Burgermasters, Vroetschappen, Schepenen, and other Magistrats in the Cities, shall remain in the said Order of the Ridderschap, and Nobles, as likewise in the respective Cities, as by antient Customs, Priviledges, or Charters is confirmed and granted to them,

or hereafter may be granted and confirmed; the Benefits whereof, they shall freely enjoy, according to the Laws and Priviledges, without that the said power of Summoning, Nominating or choosing or any part thereof, shall ever or ever, in whole or in part, be transferred or given over to any other.

II.

That in like manner the Places, Offices, Employments, and Benefices at present in the disposal of the Lords the States of Holland *and* West-Friesland, *shall continue so, and that nothing shall be ever practised to the contrary. Well to be understood, that for what concerns the Military Places, and Employments, which during a Campagne, or an Expedition by Water or by Land, shall become vacant, their No. Gr. Mi. (in as much as it belongs to them) will hereafter make such Orders and Directions, not only for the Provisional disposing of them, but also for the absolute conferring of them, as shall be found best for the good of the Land.*

III. *That*

III.

That farther, their No. Gr. and Mi. shall, not onely, never approve or consent to any thing to the contrary, but shall endeavour, with all efficacy, so to order matters in the Generality, that the other Allies may, by an unanimous consent, and common concurrence, in a resolution of the States General, conclude and ordain; That such persons as shall ever or ever, or successively be employed as Captain or Admiral-General, or in both those Commands, or such as under any other Title, shall have the supreme Command of the Militia, either by Sea or Land, shall not be, or remain Stadtholder of any Province or Provinces. And for as much as concerns the Province of Holland *and* West-Friesland; *That not onely such person, in whom is confided the Supreme Command of the Militia, by Sea or Land, but none other, shall be made Stadtholder of the said Province, and that the said Charge, shall in all respects, be, and remain Abolished. And that the Lords Committees of the Councels, in the respective Quarters, shall be appointed during the recess of the Lords, the States of* Holland *and* West-Friesland,

land, *according to their Instructions to give the necessary orders in such things as require a speedy dispatch.*

IV.

That for sufficient security of what is abovementioned, and for mutual satisfaction of the Nobles and Cities, all the Lords which are at present in the Order of the Ridderschap, and in the Vroetschappen, and they which hereafter shall be chosen into the Ridderschap, and the Vroetschappen, shall declare upon Oath, that they will Truly and Religiously maintain the said Points, and not suffer that they be violated or contravened, much less, that they will ever or ever, make any Proposition, or cause any to be made, which may in any wise be contrary thereunto; and farther, That the Oath to be taken by the Lords, Deputed by the States of Holland, *in the Assembly of the States-General, shall be so drawn up, that it may be of greatest force and effect. That likewise the Raedt Pentionaris for the time being, shall be obliged, by Oath, for as much as in him lies, to preserve, and maintain the said Points, and never or never, directly, or indirectly, to make any Proposition*

sition, or gather Voices, to the contrary, much less form any conclusion thereupon.

V.

That farther, for the greater security of what is said in the Third Article, it shall be expressly set down in the Instructions for a Captain or Admiral General, and the Person made choice of, shall be bound by Oath, not onely that he will never directly or indirectly, desire any thing, much less directly or indirectly make any solicitation to the contrary thereof, but that the same, beyond expectation, being made by others, he shall oppose it; and that in case the Stadtholdership should at any time be offered him by any Province, that he shall refuse and put it by.

The

The Form of the Oath to be taken, in pursuance of what's above mentioned, by the Lords of the *Ridderschap* and Nobles, by the *Vroetschappen* of the Cities, and by the Lords of the Assembly of the States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*.

I *Promise and Swear, to maintain truly and religiously the above-written Perpetual Edict, and all the Points and Articles therein contained, and by no means to suffer, that it be violated or contravened in any wise; much less ever, or ever to make any Proposition, or give any advice, or cause any to be made or given, which may in any respect be contrary thereunto.*

So truly help me, Almighty God.

Form

Form of the Oath to be taken by the *Raedt Pentionaris* for the time being.

I Do Promise and Swear, as much as in me lies, to maintain the above-written Perpetual Edict, with all the Points and Articles therein contained; and that I will never or never, directly or indirectly, make any proposition, or gather Voices, much less form any conclusion contrary thereunto.

So truly help me, Almighty God.

And the above-written Edict shall in manner of Grant, or ever-lasting Privilege, be sent to the Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as likewise to the Burger-masters, and Vroetschappen of the Cities, and to the Members of the Assembly of the States of Holland *and* West-Friesland, *to be by them registred in their respective Registers, to the end they may take care, that such Lords, as for the future shall be received into their Order, or chosen into the Magistracy and Vroetschappen, before their admission, take the Oath,*

Oath, according to the form that above is, and that they precisely conform themselves thereunto. The said Edict shall be likewise sent to the Courts of Justice, and to the Officers and Ministers of Justice in the said Cities, with direction and command, that in the administration of Justice, they do punctually and exactly regulate themselves thereby, as being the chiefest Law of the Land, made for defence of the Liberty, and the preservation of Unity, and the common peace, according to the Oath, taken by them upon their entry upon their respective Offices and Employments.

This done and concluded in the Assembly of the said States of Holland *and* West-Friesland. *In the* Hague, *under the Great Seal hereunto affixed, the* 5th *of of* August, 1667.

Was signed,

Johan de Wit.

And underneath by command of the States was signed,

Herb. Van Beaumont.

This Perpetual Edict was accordingly sworn to by the Lords of the *Ridderschap*, the several Members of the

the States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, by the Magistrates and *Vroetschappen* of the Cities, and all others, that were by it obliged so to do; those that refused it, were not onely put out of the Dignities, Places, and Employments they held, but were declared incapable of holding any for the future: Of that number there were but very few; for, as has been said, the *Louvestein* Party was already possessed of the Magistracies, and other chief Employments in the several Cities. And by this Act, they seemed to have secured them in their hands for the future, and wholely quashed the hopes and pretensions of the House of *Orange* to the *Stadtholdership*, which they had now for ever mortified and abolished; dividing the Authority of the *Stadtholder* amongst themselves. The Cities took upon them finally and absolutely tonominate their Magistrates, and their several Officers, and in all matters pretended to be so many petty Soveraigns within themselves. The States of the Province disposed of those Places and Employments that belonged to them, and particularly the commands of the Troops they paid, and issued all the

the Orders that concerned them; the States of every Province becoming so many Generals of the Forces they entertain'd. The first begat great divisions and mis-understandings between the Cities, which many times broke out into publick quarrels, still to the advantage of the strongest; for each being absolute, and there being no Mediator or *Stadtholder*, by whose Authority matters might be regulated and composed, Force, not Right, commonly determined them; and the latter produced no less inconveniences and mischiefs to the State, which having been used to a Captain and Admiral General, greatly suffered, when its Forces came to be governed by many Heads, without any Order or Discipline, as we shall see anon.

Soon after the conclusion of the Perpetual Edict, the Lords of *Holland*, to soften the minds of the People, who were not altogether satisfied with it, and to give to the world a seeming demonstration of their affection to the Prince of *Orange*, consented, that, as had been desired, his Highness should have Session in the Council of State, in order to his instruction in the affairs

of

of the Publick; farther promising, that when the State should at any time have occasion for an Army in the Field, that he should accompany the Deputies appointed to assist the General of it, and be present at all their Counsels and Debates, in order to the fitting himself for such Employments, as the State should afterwards think fit to choose him.

Extract out of the Register of the Resolutions of the High and Mighty Lords, the States Geral of the *United Netherlands*.

Sunday 31 May, 1670.

THe debate on the Project of Harmony, inserted in their Hi. and Mi. ty Minutes of the 17 January, 1668. *having been re-assumed: It is, by unanimous concurrence and consent of all the Provinces, understood and resolved, That the Lord Prince of* Orange *shall from henceforward, have a place allowed him in the Council of State, with a convenient yearly Treatment, in order to his being instructed in the necessary knowledge of the matters*

of the Militia, Policy, and the Publick Revenues: And that in case any Army of the State shall be brought into the Field, the said Lord Prince shall likewise, in some Politick capacity, whether as deputed out of the said Council, or otherwise, assist during the Campagne, at the Debates of their Hi. and Mi. Deputies for the Field, in order to the making him more and more fit for the discharging the Captainship General by Water and by Land, when the State shall hereafter think fit to choose him thereunto; and that as soon as the said Lord Prince shall have attained the age of 22 years, the Allies shall with good harmony consult together, concerning his fitness for the discharging the said high Commands, and resolve whether the same may and ought, for the service of the Land, to be conferred on his Highness. That in the mean time no Stadtholder, of any Province or Provinces, shall be chosen; and that in case the said Lord Prince shall at the said time be by the Allies together made Captain and Admiral General, or under any other Title have the Chief Command of the Militia, by Water or by Land, entrusted in him, that during the said deliberations, and before the effectual Ele-

tion, it shall be resolved by the Allies, and the Instruction drawn up, that no Captain General or Admiral, nor any other, on whom the chief Command of the Militia, by Water or by Land, may be conferred by the State, shall be Stadtholder of one or the other Province. That the Elected shall be obliged by Oath, not onely never directly or indirectly to request any thing, much less directly or indirectly make any sollicitation to the contrary, but being made by others, to oppose the same, and to refuse and put by the Stadtholdership, *in case that Dignity shall at any time be, by any Province, offered him. And that in case, beyond expectation, it shall come to happen, that the said Lord Prince shall not then effectually, and with unanimous consent of the Provinces together, be placed in the said high Commands, as nothing can be done therein, but unanimously, the respective Provinces shall then remain free in their deliberations, and have the same liberty as heretofore, for the Electing of* Stadtholders.

G. V. Hoolck.

Agrees with the said Register.
N. Ruysch.

Extract

Extract out of the Register of the Resolutions of the High and Mighty States General of the *United Netherlands.*

Sunday 31 *May*, 1670.

THE *debate upon the points concerning the Introduction of the Lord Prince of* Orange *into the Council of State, having been re-assumed; as, first, About the form and manner of the said Introduction: 2. What place ought to be assigned the said Lord Prince in the said Council: and 3. If any, and what Voice should be granted him there. It is understood and resolved, concerning the first point, that the said Introduction shall be performed by three Persons, to be deputed out of their Hi. and Mi. Assembly,* viz. *the Heeren* Van Werkendam, Staveniſſe, *and* Gockinga.

On the second Point it is understood, that the Elbow-Chair, which formerly stood in the said Council, at the end of the Table, and originally was made use of by the Governour General, being removed, or yet if there be occasion to be removed, the

Lord Prince of Orange *shall be placed in one of the two Velvet stools, standing on the side of the Table, next to the Lords deputed in the said Council by the Province of Holland.*

And for what concerns the said third point, That a concluding Voice in the said Council shall be granted to the said Lord Prince of Orange, *as is hereby granted to his Highness, in the manner as the other Deputies in the said Council have the same; and consequently that he, according to the* 19th *Article of the Instructions for the said Council, shall not advise or be present, when any matters, concerning Persons related to him in Bloud and Alliances to the Fourth Degree, shall be debated. For the rest, the Provinces are desired to declare themselves with the first, about the yearly Treatment to be allowed his Highness, as Counsellor of State. Further, in the same Assembly was agreed the form of the Commission and Oath, for the said Lord Prince of* Orange, *as Counsellor of State. Hereafter word for word inserted.*

THE *States General of the* United Netherlands; *To all who shall see, or hear read these presents, a lute. Make known,*

known, That we for the better Instruction of the Lord Prince of Orange, *in the matters concerning the welfare, preservation, defence, and good government of these Lands, have authorised and deputed him, as by these we do authorise and depute his Highness, to be for the future present in all the meetings of the Council of State, and there to assist, to advise, and resolve in such matters, that shall occur, as shall be found to be most for the service of the Land; It being likewise understood, that his Highness shall come to the Assembly of their Hi. and Mi. and of the Council of State, when desired thereunto. And his Highness shall hereupon take before us the necessary Oath, according to the form in that behalf agreed on. Given, &c.*

I Promise and swear, that I will regulate my self according to the Commission and Instructions for the Council of State, which have been read to me, as a faithful Counseller of State can and ought to do.

And the Griffier Ruysch *shall immediately go and desire the said Lord Prince, to come into the Assembly of their Hi.*

and Mi. there to take the Oath upon his said Commission, according and pursuant to the said form; and so to be introduced into the Council. And accordingly his Highness having been conducted into the Assembly by the said Grifhier, and seated on a Velvet-Elbow-Chair, over against the President, his Commission and form of the Oath was read to him: which he immediately took. Whereupon his Highness was, by the said Heeren of Werckendam, Staveniſſe, and Gockinga, introduced into the Council of State. Which done, the said Deputies returning into the Assembly, reported, that the said Introduction had passed in this manner, viz That they had given his Highness the precedence, and so conducted him into the Chamber of the Council of State, where they found the Council standing on the uther side of the Table, and his Highness having seated himself on one of the Velvet Stools on this side, as was appointed, and they the Lords their Hi and Mi. Deputies being set by him, had made a short Complement, which had been civilly answered by the President of the said Council. That afterwards his Highness had likewise made a Complement; that then they had taken their leaves, his Highness remain-

remaining in the said Council. And so this action ended. Whereupon their Hi. and Mi. thanked the said Lords for the pains they had taken.

M. Van Crommon.

Agrees with the Register.

N. Ruysch.

In this manner they gilded those bitter Pills they had prepared for his Highness, who, though young, could not but be sensible how hardly he and his friends were dealt with, being forced on all occasions to see them discountenanced and oppressed. His Highness however, with great prudence, suppress his just resentments, while in the mean time he, by all noble ways, fitted himself for that great station Heaven had design'd him to.

In *September*, 1668. the Province of *Zealand* gave a farther demonstration of their affection to his Highness, by making him First Noble of that Province. His Highness upon the invitation of those Regents, passed immedi-

ately into *Zealand*, from the Neighborhood of *Breda*, where he was a Hunting; and arriving at *Middleburg*, was received with great expressions of kindess and respect. On the 19 *September*, he in the assembly of the States, upon their having conferred on him the said Dignity of first Noble, made this discourse, to the great satisfaction of the Assembly.

Noble Mighty Lords.

WE have not been longer able to forbear coming to present our Person and Services to your No. Mi. and particularly to thank your No. Mi. for all the Honour, Favor, and Inclination, which from our Birth and tender years, even untill this time, your No. Mi. have abundantly demonstrated to us, and especially for having conferred upon us the State of first Noble, so as the same was possessed by our Illustrious Ancestors in this Province, according to your No. Mi. Resolution of the Seventh of August *1660, which your No. Mi. not only intended, as a pawn of your Love and Affection to us ward, within the Bounds of your Province, but likewise employed*

ployed, as a forcible Argument, to encreaſe the general Inclination, which we have had the good fortune to find in all the Provinces, for our Perſon and Houſe; your No. Mi. having had the goodneſs to continue therein on all occaſions, with a particular affection, and not long ſince, in the Year 1666, to give us to underſtand, your No. Mi. hearty deſire, that the time was come, that we might exerciſe the ſaid Quality of firſt Noble.

And ſince, No. Mi. Lords, the time is now accompliſhed, for that your your No. Mi. have thought good it ſhould be, when we come to our Eighteenth year, and that we are now near to our Nineteenth year, we have thought, that we ſhould not have anſwered and fulfilled, according to expectation, your No. Mi. wiſh and deſire, in caſe we had longer delayed to come and take poſſeſſion of what your No. Mi. had been pleaſed ſo obligingly to confer on us, as a pawn of the greateſt and moſt inward affection to our Perſon.

This is the reaſon No. Mi. Lords, that we come and preſent our ſelf in your No. Mi. Aſſembly; with all thankfulneſs to declare, that we will particularly employ and exerciſe the Quality of firſt

Noble, and by the Deputy, we shall according to your No. Mi. said Resolution of the Seventh of August 1660. *nominate thereunto, cause it to be employed and exercised, for the greatest Honour and Welfare of the laudable Government of this Province, and the mutual Harmonie of all its Members, and as far as it shall be in our power, maintain and increase the necessary Correspondance with all the Members of the Union, and especially with the Province of* Holland *and* West-Friesland, *which since all times, has had a particular Union and Engagement, with your No. Mi. And to assure you, That all that shall be farther in our Power, shall be zealously and uprightly by us employed, for your No. Mi. best Service, and the Welfare of their good Inhabitants and Subjects, and that we shall faithfully follow the laudable steps of our Illustrious Ancestors, who helped to lay the Honourable Foundation of this Republick, and ventured all for its Liberty and Religion, farther adding the great desire we have, of our particular Inclination, always to please your No. Mi. and to protect all the Members of this high Assembly: And to conclude, we assure your No. Mi. we shall in all respects do our*

part, to inform our self in the true grounds and Maxims of your No. Mi. laudable Government, and consequently to make our self more and more fit, for the advancement of your No. Mi. Interest and Welfare. Heartily praying God, that he will mercifully continue and inlarge his Blessing, over your No. Mi. Persons, and laudable Government.

Your No. Mi. affectionate Servant,

19 Sept. 1668. *G. P. d'Orange.*

THough the *Louvestein* Lords were not very well pleased hereat, for that the Prince, by being first Noble, became Master of Three Voices of Seven in the Assembly of the States of *Zealand*, and might therefore greatly influence all their resolutions, yet they thought it not worth their concern, and uncapable of giving them any disturbance, but on the other hand, seemed very much at ease, and rejoyced in the good success their Designs and Contrivances against the House of *Orange* had hitherto had, which they imagined they had now brought so low, that they had nothing to fear from it. The Stadtholdership was Mortified, so that his High-

Highneſs could not ſo much as hope, ever to obtain it; and as for the Command of Captain and Admiral-General, the State enjoyed ſo profound a Peace with all its Neighbors, that there was not the leaſt appearance of having an Army, and till there ſhould be need of one, they would not have a Captain-General. In this great ſecurity, the Fortifications went every where to wrack, the Magazines were not repleniſhed, and the Soldiery was neglected ſo far, that the Ship, which had ſo long layn in the Port of Peace and Security, being ſurpriſed by a violent Storm, unprovided to reſiſt it, and wanting its Pilot, was again driven out into the Ocean of Troubles and Diſtractions, and even ready to ſink, when it pleaſed God to ſave it.

It is not my intention to give an Account of the occaſion, beginning, or progreſs of the War, between the moſt Chriſtian King, and States-General of the *United-Provinces*. We have all ſeen or heard, how in the Year 1672. the French Armies fell like an inundation into thoſe Countries, and with its violent current, carried away all before it, inſomuch, that it is probabable, after

ter Ages will be astonished to read, that the taking of so many strong places, each of which had cost the Dutch so much Blood and Time, should be the business of some days only, and will even doubt the truth of it, and with reason enough, for the French themselves were amazed at the great Conquests they made in so short a time, and began to think, that they came not to Fight, but onely to take possession of the Seven Provinces. The Inhabitants, as well as Regents thereof, stood dismayed, believing God Almighty had wrought a Miracle for their destruction, their Neighbors being not less astonished then they, and hardly able to believe what themselves were Witnesses of; and all *Europe* admired, that a State which had formerly maintained so long and fierce a War against the Crown of *Spaine*, should in a moment be swallowed up, without any considerable Opposition. We may have more Charity, then to believe, that they who had the Ministry of Affairs in *Holland*, did wilfully betray their Country into so much Ruine and Misery, or design to have put it under the Domination of the French, for any particular

ticular Advantage of their own, as many have accuſed them, but this is manifeſt, that they did, in a great manner, contribute to it, by not taking care to make proviſion for its Defence, when they firſt perceived the Storm gathered over their Heads. They had warning time enough of the French Deſigns againſt them, but they ſtill omitted to raiſe the Forces neceſſary, becauſe they foreſaw, they ſhould not be able to avoid making the Prince of *Orange* General, and flattered themſelves with hopes of Accommodating Matters with *France*, which even when they ſaw themſelves fruſtrated in, and that the War was ready to break out againſt them, they turned all their Force by Sea againſt *England*, leaving themſelves by Land wholy expoſed to the French, or perhaps truſting in the ſtrength of their Frontier Places, which they hoped would find the Enemy Work enough, till their Neighbors, being alarmed at their danger, would, to keep the Fire from their own doors, come to their Aſſiſtance, and ſo they thought to defend themſelves at others coſt; and perhaps they might not have been deceived, had their Frontier Places been in the poſture they ought. But

But on the contrary, the Fortifications were every where ruined and gone to decay, ever since the Death of the late Prince of *Orange*, they having been neglected and unregarded, and when a little before the War, Deputies were sent down to make a Review, and give the Necessary Orders for the repairing them, either through the ignorance of those that were employed, or that they were set to Work too late, their Labours were without any effect.

The Garrisons were not Manned, as was necessary for their Defence, for as hath been said, the Old Troops had been Disbanded, and the new Leavies were begun so late, that the Companies were not a quarter compleat, when the War broke out. By this means it happened that at *Wesel*, and all the other Places, there was not half of the Men in Garrison that their Defence required, when the French Attacked them. An other reason of which might likewise be, want of judgment in those that had the direction of affairs, who thought one thousand Men sufficient, where two thousand would not have been so.

The

The Magazines were in most places not provided as they ought, no Artillery upon the Walls, no Arms in the Arsenal, and no Corn in the publick Granaries.

The Places were not commanded by able and experienced Governours, nor the Troops by good Officers; for the old ones had been all disbanded, and those that were put in by the States, were chosen, not because of their merit, or the former services they had done the State, but for their relation to those in the Government, and their known disaffection to the House of *Orange*; so that all Employments and Commands were given to Burgermasters Sons and Nephews, &c.

The Inferiour Officers paid not the respect due to their Superiours, nor the ordinary Souldiers to their Officers, all Discipline being lost among them: For he that had most Friends and Relations at Court, was sure to be countenanced, and on all occasions to have judgment given on his side, though against his Superiour Officer, who had the right on his. If an Officer at any time desired leave of his Superiour, to leave the Garrison, and was refused it,

it, he had but to addreſs himſelf to his Father, Unkle Brother, or Friend in the Government, and he was ſure to obtain it, in deſpight of his Superiour Officer. Other inſtances like theſe, for brevity we omit The Soldiers took example from thoſe that were above them, and treated them much after the ſame manner that they treated their Superiour Officers.

All theſe and many more defects and inconveniencies, which were never known in the times of the late Princes of *Orange*, hapned ſince the year 1650, from which time the State had been without a *Stadt-holder* and Captain General; and may be look'd upon as the great advancers of the *French* Conqueſts, who attacked Places without men, and Men without a Head or Chief to command them And truly it may rationally be thought, that, if the ſame Power had at firſt been given to the Prince of *Orange*, that was afterwards, and that he could have abſolutely diſpoſed of matters, as the good of the State required, the *French* might have met with ſome ſtop at leaſt in their firſt career, and not have over-run the Countrey, as they did, in a moment.

But

But so zealous were some Lords in *Holland* for preserving the liberty of their Countrey, that rather then have the Prince of *Orange* Captain General, they would endanger its falling into the hands of its Enemies: so strangely did private passions over-rule the publick Good. For when the other Provinces saw themselves in earnest threatned with a War from *France*, they found it absolutely necessary, that their first business should be, to make choice of a General to command the Forces of the State, and they could find none so fit for it as the Prince of *Orange*: Accordingly it was proposed, and earnestly pressed in the Assembly of the States General; *Holland* onely opposed it, pretending the want of years and experience in his Highness; and four moneths passed, before any thing could be finally resolved on, to the extraordinary prejudice of the Publick; for that so much time was fruitlesly spent in disputes and quarrellings, which ought to have been employed in making provision for the security of the State. And at last, when *Holland* was brought to consent, they so limited his Highness authority, that it was not in his

his power to do, what the ſervice of the State called for: for the Deputies rather commanded the Army, than his Highneſs, who had onely the name, and they the power in things, which perhaps they little underſtood.

The Form of the Power for the Captain General to Command an Army.

AFter foregoing Debate, and Conſideration had, that the preſent Conjuncture of time, and the affairs of the State, indiſpenſably require a conſiderable Army ſhould be brought into the Field, and that it is therefore neceſſary, a Truſty and qualified Perſon, ſhould be authoriſed to Command the ſame as General; it hath been thought fit and reſolved, with the unanimous Concurrence of the reſpective Provinces, again to Authoriſe the Heer N. N. our Captain General, to Command and Act with the Armies of the State, during this next Campagne, or Expedition, as General thereof, purſuant to the Commiſſion given him of the

and the Inſtructions made thereupon the by him Sworn to.

Inſtructions

Instructions for the Illustrious High Born Prince, *William Hendrick*, by the Grace of God, Prince of *Orange*, Earl of *Nassaw*, *Catzenellebgen*, *Vyanden*, *Dietz*, *&c.* Appointed Captain General for the approaching Expedition.

1. *THe Captain General, (upon supposition, that the Commands of Captain and Admiral General, will this first next time they are disposed of, be conferred together by the Allies, on one and the same person) shall not now be, nor afterwards, during his said Service, be Elected Stadtholder or Governor of one or more of the* United Provinces, *and, for better observance thereof, shall be obliged by Oath, not onely, never to make any Request to the contrary, much less any sollicitation, directly or indirectly, but the same being made by others, shall oppose it; and in case the Statholdership or Governorship shall at any time be offered him by any Province or Provinces, shall refuse it, and put it by; and consequently shall not take upon him, (though it were referred and offered*

offered to him) to Choose or Summon any Person into the Order of the Ridderschap and Nobles, or to Nominate or Choose the Burgermasters, Vroetschappen, Schepenen or other Publick Officers of the Cities, in any of the Provinces, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, but the Power of Nominating, Electing, and Summoning, shall remain in those, who have right therennto, established and confirmed to them by Antient Custom, Priviledge, and Charters. Neither shall he go about, (yea, even if it should be offred to him, shall refuse it) to give any Places, Offices, Employments, or Benefices, being in the Disposal of the Lords the States of the respective Provinces, or their Deputies, nor such as are in the disposal of the Lords the States General, whether they relate to the Militia or Politie, or any others, none excepted, whatever they are; Well to be understood, that hereby is not comprehended, the Military Places and Employments, being in the disposal of the States of the Respective Provinces, or their Deputies, becoming void during a Campagne or Expedition, nor the Governments and Commands of the Cities and Places, which may be Taken and Conquered by the Forces of the State, the Captain General

ral being perſonally in the Expedition.

2. *The Captain General ſhall, till an expreſs revocation, have and exerciſe the Supreme Command over the Militia and Armies of the State, without any exception, in whoſeſoever pay they be, according to the power given him by his Commiſſion. But ſhall be by Oath forbid to give out Patents to the Troops, which, according to the form and method agreed in the great and ſolemn Aſſembly, held the 16 of* Auguſt, 1651. *ſhall be diſpatched by the States General, with the advice of the Council of State, for as much as concerns the reſort of the Generality, or by the States of the reſpective Provinces, or their Deputies, each in as much as concerns their ſeveral Territories, in ſuch manner as is there more at large expreſſed. And that all Patents which are iſſued by the Deputies and Plenipotentiaries of the State for the Field, when any Army is brought into the Field, ſhall be given in the name of the States General, according to the form hereafter inſerted:*

THe States General of the *United Provinces* command and require by theſe, the Captain of Horſe

Cornet Captain of Foot,

Foot, that upon ſight hereof, he march with his Troop or Company, with its Colours, and compleat Arms, in all diligence to to remain there till farther Order. Done the

At the command of the ſaid States General, by their Lordſhips Deputies and Plenipotentiaries for the Field.

3. *The Captain General ſhall not receive any Pention from, nor by any Service, whether Politick or Military, none excepted; nor by any Oath (beſides the Oath of Vaſſalage, which in reſpect of any Lands he holds he may be obliged to take) be bound or engaged to, any King, Prince, or Potentate, or any other Republick, Land, States, or Cities, directly or indirectly, in any manner whatſoever: By which however is not underſtood the Title and Dignity of one or the other Order, which may be conferred on him, by any other King, Prince, or State.*

4. *The Captain General ſhall by no means concern himſelf with any matters, relating to Religion, Policy, Juſtice, or the publick Revenues, or other things in the particu-*

particular diſpoſal of the reſpective Allies, or concerning any Member of the ſame, of what kind ſoever they may be, relating to the Union, and the mutual Engagements between the Allies. Much leſs ſhall he meddle, directly or indirectly, in any Queſtions or Diſputes, which ſhall happen to ariſe between the ſaid Allies, or any Members of them; as likewiſe between the Members and Quarters of one or the other Province, unleſs he ſhall be by all the Parties deſired to interpoſe his Good Offices and Mediation; or elſe that the matter be by the ſeveral intereſſed, willingly ſubmitted to his determination.

5. Shall not take upon him, within the Territories of the voting Provinces, or any of them, any Power or Authority, beyond what is freely and expreſly given him by the States of the ſaid Province, but ſhall wholely leave it to the ſaid States, their particular Captain Generals and Deputies, authoriſed by the Sovereign of the reſpective Territory; and conſequently ſhall not, on pretence of any Commiſſion or Authority from the States General, or under any other title, pretext, or colour, do or undertake any thing in the Territory of the one or the other, or likewiſe in any of the ſaid voting Sovereign Provinces;

and

and much leſs, undertake and put into execution any thing againſt one or the other, or againſt any of the ſaid Provinces, Members, or Cities thereof, or the Regents, Officers, and Inhabitants of the ſame, how or where the ſame may be directly or indirectly in any manner.

6. The Captain General ſhall be obliged to obſerve and execute, with all diligence, whatever ſhall be concluded and reſolved, by the Deputies and Plenipotentiaries of the States General, for the Field, whether unanimouſly, or by plurality of Voices, as well when the reſolution taken, is conſonant to his advice, as when it diſagrees therefrom; for which execution, to be performed with all diligence and fidelity, he ſhall be reſponſible accordingly: And for his greater ſecurity, all the reſolutions, which ſhall be taken by their Lordſhips ſaid Deputies and Plenipotentiaries for the Field, ſhall, if poſſible, before the execution, or, if the time will not permit it, preſently after, be ſet down in writing in plain and eaſie terms, and delivered to him.

7. The Captain General ſhall have liberty to be preſent at all the Meetings of the Deputies and Plenipotentiaries of the

States General for the Field, and to serve them with prædvice.

Form of the Commission for a Captain-General.

THe States General of the United Provinces, to all to whom these presents shall be seen, or heard read. Whereas finding our selves obliged, to bring on foot a considerable Army, for the opposing, with the blessing of God, the danger that threatens us, We have thought it good and necessary, for the good management of the affairs of the War, for the maintaining of good discipline amongst the Souldiers, and to the end the said Souldiery may all in good order, for the defence of the Inhabitants of the said Land, and for the opposing and annoying the Enemy, with the greatest force and damage, to appoint some eminent person to be Captain General over the said Militia, make known. That we entirely reposing, &c. have by unanimous concurrence, each for as much as concerns the Militia in our pay respectively, deputed, ordained, and appointed, as by these presents we depute, ordain, and appoint N. N. *to be Captain General*

over

over the Armies of these United Low Countries, during the approaching Expedition. Giving the said N. N. *full might, power, and authority, to ordain and command, in the said quality, under us, the Council of State, and the Lords our Deputies and Plenipotentaries going into the Field, according to the instructions this day concluded, over the said Militia, during the approaching Campagn, as shall be found meet, for the defence, protection, and security of the State in general, and the Provinces, Members, Cities, and Inhabitants thereof in particular; and farther to do all things that a true and upright Captain General ought to do for the defence of the said* United Netherlands *in general and in particular, according to the Instructions to that end made, and by him solemnly sworn to. And to the end he may the better discharge himself of what is above-said, the said* N. N. *is obliged to take the necessary Oath before us; which Oath being taken, we expresly ordain and command all Military Officers, Collonels, Captains of Horse, Captains of Foot, and all other Souldiers being in our service and pay, and all others whom it may any wise concern, to acknowledge the said* N. N. *in the said quality, respect and obey him,*

and to help and assist him in the execution of this his charge. All finally till our express Revocation. Given, &c.

Their Hi. and Mi. have likewise concluded and agreed, as by these presents it is concluded and agreed, that the said Lord Prince *of* Orange, *notwithstanding his employment of Captain General, shall retain his Place and Vote in the Council of State, granted him* 31 May, 1670.

That farther, the said Lord Prince shall be appointed and elected, as by these presents he is elected and appointed, one of the Deputies and Plenipotentiaries for the Field.

That his Highness shall have his place in their Meetings, on the side of the President, and in that quality a concluding Vote, as each of the other their Hi. and Mi. Deputies and Plenipotentiaries for the Field hath; besides the præ-advice, which by the above-written Instructions is granted him as Captain-General; after which, the Lord President shall first ask his advice, and then gather the opinions of the said Deputies and Plenipotentiaries for the Field; and in case there be any difference between them, his Highness shall be again asked; and finally a resolution, according to the plu-

rality

rality of the Voices of the said Deputies and Plenipotentiaries for the Field (that of his Highness being likewise reckoned as a concluding Voice) taken and agreed on.

That farther, the said Lord Prince of Orange shall be authorised, as his Highness is authorised by these presents, for once to appoint the Governours and Commanders of the Towns and Places, which shall be taken and conquered by the Forces of the State, his Highness being, as Captain-General, personally in the Expedition; yet so, as that such person as shall be so appointed by his Highness, as Captain-General, shall be obliged to present the Grant obtained of his Highness, to the States General, in case the said City or Place be situate within the resort of the Generality, or otherwise to the States of the Province, in whose Territory the said place may be, in order to his having a Commission dispatched by them respectively, in due and becoming form.

And finally, it is by all the Provinces understood and declared, That in the above-written Seven Articles, serving as Instructions for a Captain-General, and the matters therein contained, no alteration shall hereafter be made, but by a

free and unanimous consent of all the Allies.

These Instructions and Commission were accordingly accepted, and sworn to by his Highness, who prudently thought it best to yield to the times, and the strength of his Enemies, and on his side not to lose any opportunity, in which he might signalize himself for the service of his Countrey, and by that means endear himself to the People. And having drawn all the Forces he could together, his Highness, with the Deputies his Governours, takes the Field, and encamps on the *Issel*, between *Zutphen* and *Arnhem*, where on the 7. of *May* was published a Free Leager. The first thing his Highness did, was, to take a review of the Army, which consisted onely in 17000 men, so little care had been taken by the State to provide against so powerful an Enemy that assaulted it. In the mean time the *French* advanced in their Conquests, and his Highness hands were so tied, that he was not able to do, what the defence of several places required. The Governour of *Wesel*, which place was attacked about the time his Highness encamped

camped on the *Issel*, sent to desire a speedy succour of Men, for that the Garrison that was in the place, was by no means capable to defend it; but what could his Highness do, but recommend it to the Deputies for the Field, to give speedy Orders in the matter? The Deputies were unwilling to weaken the Army, yet thought *Wesel* ought to be succoured; and irresolute what to do, sent to have the Orders of the States in it; and in the mean time the place was taken. Many other examples like this may be instanced, to show the great prejudice the affairs of the State sustained, through His Highness being so bound up, and the confusion that was thereby occasioned in the Army, governed by so many Heads.

The *French*, who bore all down before them, had now, to the admiration of all people, in the space of three weeks, possessed themselves of all the Frontier places of the State, had passed the *Rhine* at the *Tolbuys*, and were advancing into the *Betaw* and *Veluw*. The States finding their Forces no way able to resist them, sent Orders to his Highness and the Deputies to

break up, and retire with the Army. The 14 of *June* accordingly, his Highneſs decamped, and retreated towards *Utrecht*, where, not agreeing with the Magiſtrates of the City about their receiving a Garriſon, and having Orders from *Holland* to leave all the reſt, and ſecure that Province, his Highneſs divides his Army, and poſts it for the guard of the ſeveral paſſages into *Holland*, taking himſelf his ſtation at *Bodegrave*.

I do not deſign to give an account of the progreſs of the *French* Arms this Summer, to tell the number of places they conquered, nor the ſad and miſerable poſture the *United Provinces* and its Inhabitants were brought into. It was indeed moſt ſtrange, that a State, which not long before had lifted it ſelf even above all its Neighbours, and ſo far gloried in its ſtrength and greatneſs, that it durſt equal it ſelf to, and even affront, the greateſt Princes of *Europe*, ſhould on the ſudden fall ſo low, and into ſo much miſery, as to become a ſubject of pity even to its Enemies. But ſo it was, and of it, beſides the judgment of Almighty God, no other reaſon can be given, but that

they

they had so long been without a *Stadtholder* and Captain-General, who would in time of peace have prepared for War, and in War have fought for and defended them. The distracted Inhabitants began now to be sensible hereof, and of the great ingratitude they had been guilty of towards the House of *Orange*, and were ready enough to believe, that Heaven did now punish them for it. They observed, as well as they could, how strangely things were governed in the State, and how in the Army there was nothing but confusion and disorder, and no possibility of saving themselves, unless the whole course was changed; and, besides, feared, they should, by Treaty, have been given up to the *French*, as some said the States of *Holland* would have done, had not the other Provinces opposed it, during the *French* Kings being near *Utrecht*, when a Treaty was set on foot, but broke off again, because of the great demands of the *French*.

In this distracted posture of affairs in *Holland*, those of the *Louvestein* party had not yet lost their venom, but endeavoured to poison the dispositions

they found growing in the people towards the Prince of *Orange*, giving out, that all the misfortunes the State at present suffered under, was to be attributed to the exorbitant designs of his Highness, and those of his party, who had moved Heaven and Hell to bring things to this pass, that they might make use of them for their particular ends, to alter the Government, and to re-establish their absolute Power; to which end, his Highness had had private correspondence with the King of *England*, and the most Christian King, who had long since laid the design of making his Highness Sovereign of the *Seven Provinces*, &c. But these malitious aspersions and calumnies were easily confuted by the other side, who added, That it could not be thought his Highness or his Friends could have any hand in the present War, who had so small a part in the Government, or knowledge of what was done in it, but were onely spectators of what passed; and therefore that they, no more then the other Inhabitants, could be blamed, who had for so long continued in a blind obedience to their Superiours, to the hazard of their liberty, lives,

and

and fortunes: That those onely that had had the direction of affairs, were to be answerable for what had hapned, seeing their treachery or ill conduct was the sole occasion thereof. There were others that more particularly charged all these things upon the *Raedt Pentionary de Wit*, who had for several years solely governed the State, and usurped more power than ever the *Stadtholder* had had, in order to the supporting his new erected Government, and the raising it to that heighth, that he might be able to execute his so long premeditated design, which, they said, consisted in these four points.

1. *To bring* England *so low, that that Kingdom should be rather obliged to receive the Law from, then to give it to, the* United Provinces.
2. *Wholely to enervate the Illustrious House of* Orange, *and to bring it out of all power and authority.*
3. *To bring the Province of* Holland *to Rule over the other Six Provinces.*
4. *And himself to do what he pleased in* Holland, *and govern like a Sovereign.*

Four

For the first, concerning *England*, they said, That the Raedt Pentionaris and his adherents, had contrived the War with *England* in 1665 and 1666. and so obstinately resolved to pursue it, that they could not be disposed to a peace, till they saw the most *Christian King* enter *Flanders* in 1667. and then they found themselves necessitated thereunto, in order to the preservation of *Flanders*, and consequently securing themselves. However, that he had continued his evil intentions against *England*, and had endeavoured by his Emissaries to raise disturbances in that Kingdom, so far, that it began to be discovered, and made publick. But not succeeding therein, that he had, by Collonel *Mombus*, sollicited the most *Christian King* to joyn his Arms with them for the attacking of *England*: Which that King having communicated to His Majesty of *Great Brittain*, was one of the causes that moved him to make War against the States in 1672.

For the Second, It was most notorious how the House of *Orange* had, since the death of the late Prince, been dealt with, and all means imaginable

made

made use of to oppress it, to lessen the esteem and affection the people had for his Highness; and by false and most malicious representations, to make his name odious to the people; so far, that the *Louvesteins*, even when their Countrey was oppressed with all the miseries of the War, durst openly declare, rather for the *French* than the Prince.

That the truth of the two last points had been sufficiently demonstrated by the passages of several years last past, which were so plain and obvious to all people, that some, by way of raillery, have styled the *Pentionary de Wit*, the *King of Holland*. And how *Holland* domineered over the other Provinces, there were but too many instances of.

These Discourses went so far, and made that impression in the minds of several people, while on the other hand, every day brought the news of the loss of some important place or another: And the Enemy made his Conquests faster then the *Dutch* could receive the relation of them; that there were those, that thought it was high time to vindicate themselves and their Country, upon the Authors of their present miseries.

About

About the middle of *June*, four persons came at 11 a clock at night to the House of the Heer *de Wit*, *Ruart of Putten*, Brother to the *Raedt Pensionaris*, at *Dort*, with design, as was believed, to have killed him; for knocking at the door, and it being opened, they ask'd to speak with the *Ruart*; and though they were told, that he was in bed, and not to be spoken with at that unseasonable time of the night, yet they pressed into the House, and would doubtless have executed their evil intention, if the *Ruart*'s Lady, upon the apprehensions she had, had not immediately sent to the *Town-house*, which was hard by, and had a Guard from thence.

The same considerations were, it seems, as powerful with four other persons, *viz.* two Advocates, both Sons of the Heer *Jacob de Graef*, Counseller in the Court of Justice of *Holland*, the one named *Peter*, and the other *Jacob*: The other two were *Cornelis de Bruyn*, and *Adolf Borrebach*. These four persons passing the 21 of *June*, between 10 and 11 at night, on the *Vyverberg*, and seeing light in the room where the States of *Holland* assembled; says one of

of them, *There is yet light in the Assembly, and without doubt the* Pentionary de Wit, *that Rogue and Traitor, is still there.* And another adding, *That is was a wonder, he had not long agon been sent into another world.* They upon the place resolved to do it, and to cast Lots among them, who should first set upon him, for the freeing their Countrey of such a Traitor. It is said, that the Lot fell upon *Bruyn*, and that *Jacob Vander Graef* thereupon parted from them; while the other three, armed onely with Swords, went on towards the *Buyten-hoff*, or outward Court, where they saw the *Raedt Pentionaris* advance towards them, his Man carrying a Flambeau before him, and a Messenger of the State following with a Bag full of Papers: And being come between the *Voor-poort* and the *Scavol*, (that fatal place, where he and his Brother were two months after so inhumanely massacred) *Bruyn* sets upon him, while the other two attack the Man and the Messenger: the latter soon betook himself to his heels, and by that means gave *Peter de Grave* opportunity to go to the assistance of his Friend *Bruyn*. The Heer *de Wit* in the mean time defended

ſended himſelf very well with a little Hanger, he uſed to carry under his Coat; and notwithſtanding he had received a deep wound in the neck, he cloſed with his Adverſaries, and got them both to the ground, and would doubtleſs have quit himſelf of them, when *Jacob de Graef*, who, upon the noiſe, was returned, came to their aſſiſtance: The *Pentionary*, who had already received a wound in the head, and in ſeveral other parts of his body, being not able to withſtand ſo many, fell to the ground. The Aggreſſors, ſuppoſing they had accompliſh'd their deſign, and that he was dead, diſperſed themſelves to their ſeveral homes, while in the mean time the *Pentionary* had ſtrength enough left to get up, and go home. The news of this was ſoon ſpread all over the *Hague*, the Cavalry got on Horſeback, the Bridges were drawn up, and the Inhabitants took Arms, while enquiry was made after the Authors of this Action: they all, it ſeems, made their eſcape, except *Jacob de Graef*, who was apprehended, and committed to priſon. The next day he was examined before the Preſident of the Court of Juſtice,

to

to whom he ingeniously confessed the whole fact; adding, that he thought it the best service he could render to his distracted Countrey, to rid it of the man, who was the contriver and authour of all the mischiefs it suffered under. The States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland* highly resented this assault, made upon a Member of their Body, and gave directions to the said President, to proceed against the Criminal with all severity. On the 28 of *June* he was sentenced to be beheaded, and accordingly, with a great constancy and resolution, suffered it publickly on the *Scavol*, in the outward Court, not without creating much concern and disturbance in the minds of many people. The *Pensionary* had had great intercession made to him in favour of the Prisoner, by persons of eminency, who were related to him; but still answered, *That Justice must have its course.* And fearing it might be hindred by the ordinary people, several Troops of Horse were brought into the Town, to assist at the Execution; which was performed without any disturbance.

But the news thereof being spread over *Holland*, it is hardly to be imagin'd

gin'd the effect it had upon the people: some pitied the untimely end of the young Gentleman, others praised his generous zeal for the liberty of his Countrey, and all disliked the severity of his Sentence. From these discourses they fell into others, suggested by the danger they lay under, of falling every minute into the hands of the Enemy; *viz.* That they were sold and betray'd, That they had long enough suffered a few men to domineer in the Government, almost to the total subversion of it; and therefore that it was now high time to look to themselves, and to vindicate their lives and liberties. This begot so great a confusion and disorderly licence, that every one pillag'd and plunder'd, and did what he pleas'd, without any regard to publick Authority, which now had lost all its force, and, like the State it self, lay languishing under the distempers of its own Inhabitants. But lo the wonderful hand of God, which when all hope was lost, no expectation of any relief, and those Countries destroyed by tumults and divisions at home, and most powerful Enemies abroad, was pleased to restore them out of that distracted

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condition, to their former peace and greatness, and to make the Prince of *Orange* the Instrument of it.

The Town of *Dort*, as it was the first that formerly opposed the Prince of *Orange*, and ever since had been, of all others, his greatest Enemy, so was it the first that contributed to his re-establishment. The Burgers, about the beginning of *June*, begun publickly to express their disaffection to their Regents, and one day, in a rage, plunder'd and pull'd down to the ground the House of one of their Burgermasters.

But these were but beginnings of what was to follow. For on the 24 and 25 of *June*, some of the principal Burgers, having, at the desire of the rest, drawn up certain Articles, and with all submission presented them to the Magistrates, as tending to the preservation of their City: to which the Lords on their part returned a very kind answer, and promised what ever they had desired, should be punctually performed. The Burghers further requested, that they might see in what posture the publick Magazines were; which was not refused them: but the Keys not being produced so soon as some

some expected, a report was immediately spread about the Town, that the Magistrates were unwilling the Burgers should be admitted to visit the Magazins, that they might not see in how ill a posture they were. Hereupon a cry got among the ordinary sort of people of *Treachery, Treachery, we are all betray'd and sold to the French:* And by this means the whole City fell into the greatest confusion imaginable. On which occasion, one amongst the rest suggested, That it could not be expected otherwise, till those Traitors were turned out of the Government; and that the onely way left to defend and secure themselves, and the whole State, was, to choose his Highness *Stadtholder.* This was very well relished by all the Commonalty, who now filled the air with their acclamations of *Vive l' Orange*, and marched in Troops to the Houses of their respective Burgermasters, of whom they demanded, that the Perpetual Edict should be annulled, and his Highness made *Stadtholder* of their City. The Magistrates found themselves obliged to promise them all satisfaction; and in order to it, repaired to the *Stadthouse* to consult together.

gether. The Lords being met, and ſtill preſſed by the threats of the people, were forced, though moſt unwillingly, to make publick declaration with ſound of Trumpet, That they would depute ſeveral perſons to his Highneſs, to pray he would pleaſe to come in perſon to their City, to ſee the poſture and condition of it. And the Deputies were accordingly immediately diſpatched to his Highneſs at *Bodegrave*, whom they earneſtly entreated with his preſence to appeaſe the diſorders of their City, and compoſe the minds of the people; who otherwiſe threatned farther and great diſturbances. His Highneſs at firſt excuſed it, upon the neceſſity there was of his remaining with his Troops, for the guard of a Poſt which was of ſo much importance to the whole State; but at laſt was prevailed with at their intreaties. The 29 of *June*, about 11 in the morning, his Highneſs arrived accordingly at *Dort*, and was received with all the acclamations and demonſtrations of joy and affection the people were capable of expreſſing; the Burgers were all in Arms, and the Canon about the Town were ſeveral

times

times discharged to welcome his Highness, who having been received by the Magistrates, was conducted by them to the *Stadthouse*, and being come thither, was prayed to take the place that had been prepared for him in the Chamber of their usual Assembly: Which done, the Magistrates, by one of their Body, made his Highness a great Complement, telling him, the great obligation the State had to his prudent conduct of things in those distracted times, of which their City, and all its inhabitants, were particularly sensible, and would on all occasions demonstrate the same: And lastly, they thanked his Highness for the honour he had done them in this Visit, which they doubted not but would have the desired effect, in quieting the minds of the people. His Highness on his part as fairly returned their Complement, in most kind and obliging expressions. Which done, the Magistrates accompanied his Highness to see the Town-Walls, and from thence to dinner, which was prepared in one of the chiefest Inns in the Town. In the mean time, some of the Burghers having been informed of what had passed, and that

that his Highneſs was not made *Stadtholder*, told it amongſt the reſt, which created a freſh diſorder; inſomuch that meeting the Prince's Coach, in which he, with the principal of the Magiſtrates, was, they ſtopped it, and with their Swords and Muskets in their hands, asked his Highneſs, if they had made him *Stadtholder*? To which he anſwering, That he was very well ſatisfied: they replied again, If your Highneſs is, we are not, unleſs you are declared *Stadtholder*. Whereupon one of the Lords, who ſate in the Boot of the Coach, cried, *Vivat Orange*. But a principal man amongſt the Burgers immediately anſwered, *This is a Judas*; we ask if his Highneſs be made *Stadtholder*? if not, we will take him out of the Coach into our protection, and treat theſe Traitors to their Countrey according to their deſerts. The Lords finding in what danger they were, and that it was in vain to diſpute, promiſed, That ſo ſoon as they came to the Inn, they would give his Highneſs and them ample ſatisfaction. Upon this promiſe, the Burghers ſuffered the Coach to paſs on, ſwearing, That not one of them ſhould come alive out of the Inn, unleſs

leſs they drew up a formal Act in writing, for the conferring the *Stadtholderſhip* upon his Highneſs, and they all ſigned it: Which was accordingly done, and after having been ſeveral times amended, preſented to his Highneſs: Who abſolutely refuſed to accept of the *Stadtholderſhip*, till he was diſpenced of his Oath upon the perpetual Edict; which in the preſence of two Miniſters was done in the form following. And about 4 in the Afternoon, his Highneſs returned amidſt the acclamations of the people towards *Bodegrave*.

WE *underwritten Vroetſchappen, good people of the Eight, and Miniſters of the City of Dort, declare by theſe preſents, that we renounce to, and depart from the* Perpetual Edict, *and conſequently, that we declare his Highneſs the Prince of* Orange Stadtholder, *on the part of this City; and farther confer on him all the Qualities, Honours, and Dignities, which ever his Anceſtors of bleſſed memory had: And laſtly, that we do releaſe and diſpence his Highneſs of the Oath, which his Illuſtrious Highneſs*

neſs took, not to receive the Statholder-ſhip.

Done 29 *June*, 1672.

This was ſigned by all the Regents, except the old Burgermaſter *Cornelis de Wit*, *Ruart* of *Putten*, who having been brought ſick home from the Fleet, was, by reaſon of his indiſpoſition, not preſent when the other Lords ſigned this Act: Wherefore two Lords and four Burghers were deputed to go, and have the *Ruarts* hand likewiſe to it; which he abſolutely refuſed, not being able to be perſwaded to contribute to that, which he, with others, had for ſo many years, with ſo much trouble, been contriving to prevent; till at laſt, overcome by the intreaties of his Friends, and the tears and lamentations of his Wife, Children, and whole Family, occaſioned by the proſpect of the great danger they were in, he, with great repugnance, likewiſe ſigned it. This for the preſent pacified the people: but 14 days were hardly paſſed, but they fouud out ſome new occaſion of diſcontent, and from among themſelves deputed certain perſons to go

and pray his Highneſs, that ſeveral of the Regents, and particularly the *Ruart* of *Putten*, might be impriſoned: But his Highneſs checked their diſorderly proceedings, and ſent them ſeveral orders, according to which they ſhould govern themſelves.

Haerlem was the next that declared for the Prince: The firſt occaſion of the diſorders there amongſt the people, was, that ſeveral Waggons paſſed through the City, laden with the goods of thoſe poor people that fled for fear of the Enemy; the rabble meeting with them, without more ado, ſeized and pillaged them, crying, That the Traitors, after having ſold their Countrey, and brought it to the miſerable condition it was in, were endeavouring to remove themſelves and goods out of it. The confuſion occaſioned hereby, grew greater and greater, and at laſt turned into clamours againſt the Magiſtrates, whom they accuſed (though without any reaſon, for they had always enclined to his Highneſs, and particularly their Pentionary the *Heer Fagel*, now Raedt Pentionary of *Holland*) of having oppoſed, on all occaſions, the Intereſts of the Prince of *Orange*, and

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contributed to the making the Perpetual Edict. Theſe tumults continued till the 30. when the Burghers coming into Arms for the ſecurity of their City, they deputed certain perſons to the Magiſtrates, to acquaint them, that the whole City inclined to the making the Prince of *Orange Stadtholder*, and the conferring on him all the Honours and Dignities poſſeſſed by his Anceſtors; and therefore humbly deſired, they would ſpeedily reſolve in the matter, to the ſatisfaction of the Burghers: Which the Lords immediately did, and with ſound of Trumpet cauſed publick proclamation to be made, of their having elected his Highneſs *Stadtholder*, &c. and at the ſame time nominated one of their body, and four Burghers, to go and acquaint his Highneſs with what they had done, to pray his acceptance of it, and that he would pleaſe to honour their City with his preſence. The Deputies accordingly departed, and were very kindly received by his Highneſs at *Bodegrave*, who however could not be prevailed with to come for that time to *Haerlem*, for that his preſence was ſo abſolutely neceſſary in the Army,

though the Deputies of the City earneſtly preſſed it, uſing, amongſt others, this argument, That they ſhould be torn in pieces by the people, in caſe they brought not his Highneſs with them. To prevent which, his Highneſs ſent one of his Trumpeters back with them, to ſatisfie the ordinary people of the Deputies having been with him.

Delf had the next turn, for on the 29 of *June*, in the after-noon, a general ſummons being ſpread through *Maeſlant-ſluice*, and the Neighbourhood thereof, that all thoſe that wiſhed well to their Countrey and his Highneſs, ſhould the next morning by break of day appear in their Arms, for the ſervice of the Fatherland. Accordingly about 800 Boors, Fiſhermen, and others of *Maeſland* met the next morning, and 100 Burghers of *Schedam* joyned with them. They together marched directly to *Delf*, where they arrived about 9 a clock, entred the Town without any oppoſition, and having poſſeſſed themſelves of the ſeveral Gates, advanced directly to the *Stadthouſe*, where they found the Magiſtrates aſſembled, whom they eaſily obliged to declare the Prince of *Orange*

Stadt-

Stadtholder; which was accordingly done the next day. The *Maeſlanders* from thence intended to have proceeded on the ſame errand to the *Hague*, *Haerlem*, *Leyden*, and *Gouda*; but Deputies coming to them from the *Hague* from the States of *Holland*, to tell them, that they were then about paſſing a ſolemn Act for his Highneſs advancement, and the annulling the Perpetual Edict, they were very well ſatisfied, and returned very merrily to their ſeveral homes.

Leyden was not free of civil motions and diſturbances. There had been ſeveral tumults amongſt the people, on light occaſions, which were ſtill appeaſed: But on the 4. of *July*, the Burghers petitioned the Magiſtrates, that the Prince of *Orange* might be declared *Stadtholder*; which was accordingly done that very day.

Amſterdam, the Capital City of *Holland*, had hitherto eſcaped better then any, and continued a long while without any diſturbance, which the Regents however greatly apprehended, for that the people began highly to murmur, and that publickly, againſt ſeveral in the Government, and Libels and

Pamphlets were daily ſpread abroad, which had their effect amongſt the people. The Magiſtrates in the mean time publiſhed ſeveral Ordinances, for the aſſuring and quieting the people, which though they were not altogether fruitleſs, yet could not remove the ill opinion many of the Burghers had conceived of divers perſons in the Government: And for that they ſaw the general vogue of all the Inhabitants was, for the Prince's advancement, they thought beſt to comply with the time, and to make the ſtep of their own accord, which the Magiſtrates of ſeveral other Cities had been obliged to; however, that they might proceed regularly, and not in tumult, they reſolved to depute one of their Burghermaſters, the Heer *de Graef*, to the *Hague*, to give their conſent in the Aſſembly of the States of *Holland*, for the electing his Highneſs *Stadtholder*. On the firſt of *July*, he took Wagon for the *Hague*, having a bag with him, in which was ſome Money and Papers; as he was getting into it, a Woman that ſtood by, cried, *This is a Traitor, who is going with Money and Letters to the Hague, to ſell this City, and*

and to deliver it into the hands of the Enemy. Whereupon the Rabble immediately got together, and would certainly have offered violence to this old Gentleman, but that he made haste to escape into the house, from whence he came newly before. In the interim, two Companies of Burghers, who had the Watch that day, rescu'd him out of the hands of the multitude, and reconducted him to the Town-house: And the Lords having assured the Burghers, that the Heer *de Graif* was going to the *Hague*, on business which highly concerned the welfare of the State, and their City in particular, they conveyed him without the Gates, and saw him safe in his Wagon, so that he proceeded on his journey to the *Hague*; the Rabble however continued very disorderly, and made tumults in several parts of the City, but were at last dispersed by the Burghers.

The like commotions happned about the same time in other places of *Holland*, the Magistrates whereof were compelled to declare the Prince *Stadtholder*; and particularly in *Rotterdam*, where the Burghers were as zealous for the Prince, as any of the other Towns

above-mention'd, by which means ſeveral diſturbances were occaſion'd; for they looking upon their Magiſtrates as ill wiſhers to his Highneſs, would not be quiet, till they had obliged them to declare his Highneſs *Stadtholder* of their City; which was done on the 30 of *June*. His Highneſs had, upon the firſt news of the commotions there, at the inſtance of the Magiſtrates, ſent a Troop of Horſe to aſſiſt them to keep the peace; but the Burghers would not permit it entrance into the Town, telling the Officers, that all they deſired, was, to have his Highneſs *Stadtholder*; and that if his Highneſs would pleaſe to come himſelf among them, they would receive him with all reſpect and affection; but that they had no need of Souldiers.

The ſeveral Cities of *Holland*, having thus almoſt at the ſame time declared for the Prince, they ſent their Deputies to the *Hague*, where they of *Haerlem*, *Leyden*, and *Rotterdam* arrived firſt, to acquaint the States of *Holland* with what they had done, and to pray them, that they would, in a ſolemn and formal manner, as repreſenting the whole Province, elect his Highneſs *Stadtholder*,

holder, after having firſt annulled the Perpetual Edict. Whereupon a form of an Act for that purpoſe was immediately drawn up, and Copies given to their ſeveral Deputies, with which they went home, to have the approbation of their reſpective Principals, and returning again therewith; The States of *Holland*, the 3. of *July*, paſſed in their Aſſembly this following Act or Reſolution, by which they renounced the Perpetual Edict, and conferred upon his Highneſs the *Stadtholderſhip*, the commands of Captain and Admiral General, and all other Honours, Powers, and Authorities enjoyed by his Anceſtors: And appointed a Deputation, to go and preſent the ſame to his Highneſs at *Bodegrave*, and to pray he would be pleaſed to come and take poſſeſſion thereof; and ordered likewiſe eight Deputies to go and congratulate with her Highneſs, the Princeſs Dowager, upon the ſubject of his Highneſs advancement.

The Election of his Highneſs, the Prince of *Orange*, to be Stadtholder, Captain General and Admiral, by Water and by Land.

Extract out of the Reſolutions of the Lords States of *Holland* and *West-Frieſland*, taken in their No. Gr. Mi. Aſſembly.

On *Sunday*, 3 *of July*, 1672.

THE Members having ſhown a general and unanimous inclination, to make and elect the Lord Prince of Orange *Stadtholder of this Province, after that by a reſolution of the* 1ſt *of this inſtant* July, *this day reſumed in their No. Gr. Mi. Aſſembly, and finally concluded, it had been underſtood and thought good, that in order to the enabling the Members of this Province, in this calamitous conſtitution of times and affairs, to make a* Stadtholder, *they ſhould diſpence each other, and all others, who, purſuant to the reſolution of the* 5th *of* Auguſt 1667. *had taken the Oath upon the Perpetual Edict, from*

from the ſaid Oath, and reſtore each other to the ſame liberty and power of making and electing a Stadtholder, *as they had before the date of the ſaid Perpetual Edict: The Lords of the Ridderſchap and Nobles, as likewiſe the Deputies of the Cities, in the name and on the part of their Principals, have thought good and reſolved, to make and elect the ſaid Prince of* Orange, *as his Highneſs is hereby made and elected by their No. Gr. Mi. to be* Stadtholder, Captain General, *and* Admiral *over the Militia of this Province, by Water and by Land, with all ſuch Honours and Dignities, as the ſame have been poſſeſſed by the Princes his Anceſtors of glorious memory; that accordingly a reſpectful and formal deputation ſhall be ſent on the part of this Aſſembly, to his ſaid Highneſs, to offer him the ſaid Honours and Dignities: To which end are deſired and deputed, as they are hereby deſired and deputed the Heer* Van Duyvenvoorde, *out of the Order of the Ridderſchap; the Heeren* Halling, Deyman, Onderwater, Van Zanen, de Graef, Vander Tocht, Peſſer, Vander Lijn, de Groot, Admirael, *Burgermaſters of the Cities of* Dort, Haerlem, Delft, Leyden, Amſterdam,

sterdam, Gouda, Rotterdam, Alckmaer, Horn, *and* Enchuysen. *And the said Lords Deputies are authorised, in the name, and on the part of their No. Gr. Mi. to dispence and release his Highness, as he is hereby dispensed and released, of the Oath taken by him, not to accept of the said* Stadholdership. *It is lastly thought good and understood, that matters shall be so ordered on the part of their No. Gr. Mi. in the Generality, that the said Prince of* Orange *may be made and elected Captain General and Admiral over the Militia by Sea and Land, of the* United Netherlands; *and that by amplification of his Instructions, such further power and authority concerning the Patents, and other matters relating to the said Militia, as the former Princes of* Orange, *his worthy Ancestors, exercised as* Stadtholders *and Captains General, in respect of the said Militia, may be conferred on his Highness, till manifest revocation of the same. And that his Highness may by their Hi. and Mi. be dispensed and released of the Oath taken in their Assembly, not to accept of the said* Stadtholdership.

Agrees with the said Resolutions.

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Mortification of the Perpetual Edict.

Extract out of the Resolutions of the Lords States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, taken in their No. Gr. Mi. Assembly.

Sunday 3. July, 1672.

UPon the motion of the Lords, the Deputies of the Cities of Haerlem, Rotterdam, *and other Members of their No. Gr. Mi. Assembly: The Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as likewise the Deputies of the Cities, in the name, and on the part of the Lords their Principals, have thought good, and resolved, that for the enabling, in this sad conjuncture of time and affairs, the Members of this Assembly to make a* Stadtholder, *the said Members shall dispence each other; as they do by these presents dispence each other, and all others, who have successively sworn to the Perpetual Edict, of the Oath by them taken on the said Perpetual Edict, pursuant to their No. Gr. Mi. Resolution of the 5.* August 1667, *restoring*

storing each other to the same liberty and power, which they had before the date of the said Perpetual Edict, to make and elect a Stadtholder.

Agrees with the said Resolutions.

The 8. of the same Moneth, the *States General* made a resolution to confer upon his Highness the Commands of Captain and Admiral General over the Forces of the *Seven United Provinces*, by Water and by Land, to be exercised with the same Power and Authority, as had been by his Illustrious Ancestors.

The next day, being the 9. his Highness came to the *Hague* about 5 a clock in the morning: The first thing he did, was to hold a conference with certain Lords, concerning the present miserable posture of affairs. About 10. he was conducted to the Assembly of the States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, in order to his taking his Oath as *Stadtholder*: which being done, and all other Ceremonies and Congratulations performed, with great appearances of outward satisfaction, (so far, that it is said, the Raedt Pen-

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tionary *de Wit*, who was ſick at home, being told of what paſſed, ſaid, That his Soul rejoyced at his Highneſs advancement, for that he was the onely man, that could ſave their broken Ship from ſinking.) His Highneſs returned to his Apartment, from whence he was conducted to the Aſſembly of the States General, by two of their Deputies: Being come there, after the firſt Complements, the Commands of Captain and Admiral General over the *Seven Provinces* were conferred on his Highneſs, with ſuch ample Powers and Inſtructions, as had theretofore been given to his Anceſtors: Which his Highneſs, after having been diſpenced from the Oath he took upon the Perpetual Edict, accepted, and accordingly took the Oath of Captain and Admiral General; and that done, was reconducted to his Apartment. From whence, about half an hour after Twelve, his Highneſs was conducted by two Lords of *Holland* to the Provincial Court of Juſtice, where he took his place as *Stadtholder*, a new green Velvet Chair having been prepared for him, for the old one, upon the making the Perpetual Edict, had been taken away;

away; and ſeveral other formalities having been performed, his Highneſs returned to his Apartment, accompanied by all the Counſellors of the ſaid Court, in their Robes, and great numbers of Perſons of quality, amidſt the acclamations, and ſuch crowds of people, that a great many Souldiers were forced to be employed to open the way before his Highneſs: Who having received the congratulations of all the perſons of quality about Town, went and dined with the Princeſs Dowager his Grandmother; and about Four in the afternoon left the *Hague* again, returning to *Bodegrave*. The reſt of the day was ſpent by the people in rejoycings and merriments, while the more ſober ſort look'd up, and gave thanks to God, that after Twenty two years oppreſſion, he had been pleaſed ſo unexpectedly, and in ſo extraordinary manner, to reſtore his Highneſs to all the Dignities and Authorities, which his Anceſtors had ſo juſtly acquired, and thereby the State to its antient form of Government, under which it had grown up and become ſo powerful, and which diſſolved, it had fallen into ruine and miſeries, from whence

they

they hoped his Highneſs would, by the bleſſing of God, deliver it.

In *Zealand*, things had gone much after the ſame manner as in *Holland*, continual tumults and diſorders among the people, and particularly the Women, who on every light occaſion made uproars. The Magiſtrates were in continual danger of being murthered, and their houſes pillaged, and pulled down about their ears: all Trade and Commerce was laid aſide, and all things governed by popular fury. Which it pleaſed God to turn to a good end: The Burghers of *Zierickſee* were the firſt that declared for his Highneſs; *Vliſſing* and *Middleburg* ſoon follow'd the example, and all the other places of that Province: So that on the fourth of *July*, the States of *Zealand* aſſembled in due form at *Middleburg*, made his Highneſs *Stadtholder* of their Province, and diſpenſed him from his Oath upon the Perpetual Edict, in the ſame manner as was done in *Holland*.

This Revolution in the Provinces of *Holland*, and *Weſt-Frieſland*, and *Zealand*, may be reckoned amongſt the greateſt that have hapned: When we conſider, how far the Enemies of the

Houſe

House of *Orange*, through the untimely death of the late Prince, and the Infancy and tender years of his Highness, had advanced in their designs of oppressing it; how they had brought the Government into the hands of their own party, perswaded the people, that a *Stadtholder* was not onely unnecessary and chargeable, but dangerous to their liberty; and lastly, how by the Perpetual Edict, they had imposed an Oath upon all persons, that had any power or employment in the Government, and laid an invincible obstacle, as it then seemed, in the way of his Highness preferment. But who is able to withstand the Decrees of Heaven? which on the sudden dissolved that *Gordian knot*, which the *Louvestein* had been so long a weaving, and advanced his Highness to honour and greatness, even beyond what his Ancestors had enjoyed.

The Inhabitants of the *United Netherlands*, as they were greatly pleased at his Highness re-establishment, so they were much more, when they found the good effect of it; for presently all things changed for the better, the Souldiers were encouraged, and put

put in a posture for the defence of the State. The Enemy made no more progress as before, but began in some places even to lose ground: Mens minds were quieted at home, and those great tumults and disturbances, turned into peace and quietness: The Frontier places that remained to the State, were provided with all things necessary; and, in a word, the State began sensibly to recover of the dangerous sickness it languished under, as well in respect of affairs at home as abroad.

However, many people continued to have an ill eye upon several Lords in the Government, and particularly upon the *Pentionary de Wit*, and his Brother the *Ruart of Putten*, whom they accused of having betrayed their Countrey to the *French*, and particularly the *Pentionary*, who, they said, had misimployed the great Sums of Money he had had from the State for secret correspondence; on which subject, several Libels and Pasquils came abroad, to the great dissatisfaction of the *Pentionary*, so far, that he writ a Letter to his Highness, as *Stadtholder*, to complain thereof, and to pray his Highness would

justifie

justifie him in several other Matters he was charged with, being not yet recovered of his wounds, and confined to his Chamber. To which his Highness returned for Answer,

That he had always despised the reports spread abroad in that manner, though he had likewise very much suffered by Libels and Pasquils, which had been received with great liking, and tolerated against him. That for the Moneys about secret correspondence, the Lords of the Council of State could best witness for him; and for what concerned his neglect in relation to the Army, that it was impossible for him (his Highness) by reason of his many occupations, to particularise what had been wanting in the Army, and the care that ought to have been taken to supply those defects, or by whose fault they happned. That he being distracted by many affairs, desired as little as possibly he could, in those calamitous times, to disturb himself with an enquiry into past miscarriages; and that the justification which the Pentionary desired of his Highness, would be better made appear by the actions he had done, for the providing for, and taking care of the Publick.

The

The *Pentionary* not being ſatisfied with this Anſwer, and particularly in the matter of the Moneys for ſecret correſpondences, gives a Memorial to the Council of State; who thereupon declare, by a publick Act, That they did not know of any Moneys the Pentionary had ever received for private correſpondencies. This did not ſatisfie the people however in the other points charged by them upon the *Pentionary*; and ſtill they cried out againſt him for having betray'd and ſold his Countrey; inſomuch that he was forced to keep a Guard within his houſe for his ſecurity againſt their violences. This, and what farther befel theſe unhappy men, the *Pentionary* and his Brother, may afford us a fit ſubject to bewail the inconſtancies of all humane things, and ſeems to tell thoſe that live in Cells and Cottages that they are often much happier, then they that excel in Power and publick Authority, who many times are made the ſcoff and paſtime of fortune, and are like Tennis-balls, toſſed to and fro by cares and diſturbances, the effects of greatneſs; and at laſt have unhappier ends then the meaneſt Peaſant. Of which, theſe

two

two Brothers were a ſad example, who after having for ſeveral years, with the aſſiſtance of their Friends, governed the *United Provinces*, and made themſelves eminent at home and abroad, were, in the prime of their age, violently hurried out of this World, in a moſt miſerable and barbarous manner, hardly to be parallel'd in Hiſtory, and not to be remembred but with horrour: For how ill ſoever they might have deſerved of their Countrey, as men, they challenge the Offices of humanity, and demand our commiſeration of their misfortunes, as well as deteſtation of ſo brutal and horrid a fact.

The firſt part of the Tragedy, we are going to relate, was acted by one *William Tichlaer*, a Chyrurgeon by profeſſion, who acquainted the Heer of *Albrantſwaart*, Chamberlain of the Prince's houſe, and afterwards the Heer *Zuyleſtein*, That having been adviſed to addreſs himſelf to the Heer *de Wit*, *Ruart of Putten*, to complain of certain ill treatment he had received from the Heer of *Pierſhill*, and the Sheriff of that place, which was his reſidence, and to deſire his favour in the

the matter; and accordingly going to him on the 8. of *July*, 1672. the *Ruart* on that occaſion had perſwaded him, to promiſe under an Oath, to kill the new *Stadtholder* the Prince of *Orange*; in conſideration whereof, he promiſed him a reward of 30 thouſand Gilders, and the Sheriffſhip of *Beyerland*, and beſides, that all his friends ſhould be preferred: Adding, that there were above thirty of the principal Regents of the Land, who, with him, ſought for ſome fit perſon, which might do this neceſſary work, for that the Prince was the ruine of the Countrey; and that therefore he might go about it bravely, for that they ſhould be ſufficiently able to protect him; and farther, that the *Ruart* had propoſed to him ſeveral ways of doing it, &c.

The Heer *Albrantſwaar* immediately gave his Highneſs an account thereof; and his Highneſs communicated the whole matter to the Court of Juſtice of *Holland*. Whereupon the ſaid *Ticklaer* was the ſame day at two ſeveral times examined by the ſaid Court; and he having upon Oath confirmed all that is above related, the Court, after mature deliberation, thought good to ordain,

dain, that the Fiſcal General ſhould cauſe the *Ruart* to be tranſported from *Dort* to the *Hague*; and accordingly on the 24 of *July*, the *Ruart* was taken in arreſt, and brought priſoner to the *Hague*. The next day he was examined by the ſaid Court: At firſt, it is ſaid, he denied, that he knew the ſaid *Ticklaer*; but being afterwards confronted to him, he was obliged to confeſs the contrary. Both the *Ruart* and *Ticklaer* were afterwards frequently examined, as well together as apart.

In the mean time the *Pentionary de Wit* omitted nothing on his part, to aſſiſt his Brother with his Friends and Intereſts on this occaſion. But finding, as to his particular, that the prejudice many people had conceived againſt him encreaſed daily, he reſolved to quit his employment of *Raedt Pentionaris*; which he accordingly did on the 4. of *Auguſt*.

Extract

Extract out of the Resolutions of the Lords States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, taken in their Lordships Assembly on *Thursday* the 4. of *August*, 1672.

THe *Heer* Johan de Wit, Raedt Pentionary *of the Land of* Holland *and* West-Friesland, *being recovered of the Wounds he had received, and appearing again in their No. Gr. Mi. Assembly, hath first by word of mouth delivered to their No. Gr. Mi. and afterwards given in writing the Proposition here following, inserted word for word.*

No. Gr. Mi. Lords,

ON *the* 30. *of the last Moneth, nineteen years were expired, since I was sworn for the first time, according to Order and Custom, in this Assembly, as* Raedt Pentionary *of the Land of* Holland *and* West-Friesland. *During the said space of nineteen years, many grievous Wars and other calamities have befallen the State; which have all been under the merciful blessing of God, chiefly through the liberal consents and supplies*

of your No. Gr. Mi. as likewise through your courage and conduct, happily overcome and brought to an end: It is best known to your No. Gr. Mi. or at least to such of you, as have all along assisted in this Illustrious Assembly, with what zeal and labour, as also with what Proposals and well prepared Projects, I have, for many years, laboured to prevent and avert the occasions of misunderstanding and difference with the present most powerful Enemies of the State, not without reiterated Remonstrances of the great evils and mischiefs, which for want of applying the necessary remedies, were in process of time to be expected from the said misunderstandings. But it hath pleased Almighty God, according to his wonderful, yet nevertheless holy Providence, for a long time, more and more, to dispose things to an appearance of the breaking out of the present War. So that in some measure there hath been time and opportunity to fortifie the State in general, and chiefly the Province of Holland *and* West-Friesland *in particular; as likewise to provide, as far as possible, whatever might serve for its defence. With what application and pressing Arguments I have thereunto exhorted and prayed*

the Members of this Assembly, as also the other Provinces in the generality, the Minutes of the Lords, who have from time to time continually assisted at the debates here, and in the Generality, as well as their memory can witness. And though your No. Gr. Mi. have taken good care, with as much speed as was possible, in a Body composed of so many Members, and of such Constitutions, that it useth to be rather and sooner moved by the perswasions of a present and extreme necessity, than by a timely admonition, founded onely on a future, though well foreseen difficulty: yet it hath pleased God, as it seems, in his wrath, to suffer the disasters and calamities to overcome the State, in which the Land is at present involved, and that in a most wonderful manner, and so sudden, and with so little opposition, that posterity will have reason not to believe it.

And seeing these calamities and sudden disasters have made the Commonalty, and all the Inhabitants of the Land, conceive, together with a fright and trembling, a sinister impression of their Regents, and particularly of those, who, above the rest, have had any part in the Government. Of which sinister impression I find (though being no Regent, but onely a Servant) so

great a part, according to the proportion of the management and direction of affairs, annexed to my said Employment, *or rather, which by many, through ignorance, is thought to be annexed thereunto, and exercised by me, to fall upon my person, that I cannot with a good judgment otherwise believe, but that the continuance of my said* Employment *as* Raedt Pensionaris *will be prejudicial to the Publick; for that it is beyond dispute most certain, that the resolutions of your No. Gr. Mi. which should be taken during my said service, and pass under my pen, would not find, with the Commonalty, that acceptation, and consequently that facility and readiness in the execution, as the service of the Land might require: Wherefore I have thought, that I could, and might, not onely without prejudice to, but for the service of the State, pray your No. Gr. Mi. as I do with all humility and submission pray hereby, that it may be your No. Gr. Mi. good pleasures, favourably to dismiss me from my said* Employment; *highly thanking your No. Gr. Mi. in general, and all the Members of this Illustrious Assembly in particular, for all the goodness and favour shown me on divers occasions, and particularly for that your*

No.

No. Gr. Mi. were pleased on the 6th of August, 1658. *to favour me with an Act, renewed the 15th of* September, 1663. *and again on the 15th of* September, 1668. *by which is given and granted to me the faculty, to have Session, after expiration of my five years service, or sooner, if my Employment should in the mean time be quitted by me, in one of the Courts of Justice, as I should then choose, of which I shall, after your No. Gr. Mi. favourable dismission as above, with your good leave, serve my self, in the High Council: And though your No. Gr. Mi. were therennto pleased to add, that in case, as aforesaid, there should be assigned me, and that there was assigned me, from that time such rang amongst the Counsellors, as was found to have been formerly granted to the* Heer Raedt Pentionaris Cats, *and others; and that accordingly things ought to be so look'd upon and considered, as if ever since my first entring upon my Office of* Raedt Pentionaris, *which was on the 30th of* July, 1653. *I had actually been possessed of the said rang and place; yet reflecting on the matter, I cannot but conceive, according to the Justice, with which all your No. Gr. Mi. actions and decrees are ac-*

company'd, that my Session in the said Councel ought not to be regulated from my first Entry upon my Employment, that is, from the 30th *of* July, 1653. *but from the date of the said Resolution,* viz. *the* 6th *of* August, 1658. *And therefore, for as much as concerns my self, I think it just, and accordingly desire, that no body may look upon himself hardly dealt with, that your No. Gr. Mi. will please to pass my Commission of Counseller in the High Court, not according to the date of the* 30th *of* July, 1653. *but to the* 6th *of* August, 1658. *Upon which, as likewise upon my said desired demission, expects your favourable resolution, he who is, and always will remain,*

Your No. Gr. Mi. humble and faithful Servant,

JOHAN de WITT.

Upon which, in the absence of the said Raedt Pentionaris, *debate having been had, their No. Gr. Mi. have granted the before-recited request; and accordingly have dispensed and released the said* Heer de Wit *from his Employment of* Raedt Pen-

Pentionaris, *and thank'd him, as they do hereby dispence, release, and thank him; and for what concerns the said Session in the High Council, it is thought good, and resolved, that according to his proposal, it shall be ordered so, and in such manner, as if he the said Heer* de Witt *had possessed the place of Counsellor in the said High Council, from the* 6th *of* August, 1658. *and not from the* 30th *of* July, 1653. *and consequently that he shall be placed in rang after the Counsellors, who have had Session in the said Council before the* 6th *of* August, 1658. *and before those Counsellors that have come into the said Council since that date. Of which, the President and Counsellors of the High Council of* Holland *and* West-Friesland *shall, by Letter, have notice, to regulate themselves thereby, And further, to cause all things which may concern it, as well in the said High Council, as out of it, to be regulated thereby, as it ought. And after the above-written Resolution had been taken by their No. Gr. Mi. the contents thereof was immediately communicated to the* Raedt Pentionaris, *being to that end returned into the Assembly.*

The Court of Justice was in the mean time busied with the examinations of the *Ruart* and *Tichlaer*, who was likewise committed to custody. The *Ruart*'s Lady, to justifie her Husband, gave in a Memorial to this effect, That the said *Tichlaer* had seen her Husband but once in a year and a day, and never spoke to him before the 8th of *July*, when the said *Tichlaer*, unsent for, came to the *Ruart*'s house at *Dort*, and desired to speak with him, without having directly or indirectly been by him desired so to do; and what is remarkable, he desired to speak with him alone, and would not, till after two askings, tell his name: That at last he was admitted to his bed-side, the *Ruart* being indisposed: That she, considering the malice of the times, was greatly concerned at the private access of this man to her Husband, whose countenance promised no great good; and the rather, because of the attempt that had not long before been made upon her Brother, the *Raedt Pensionaris*; and that not many days before, four lusty persons came to her house, with intention certainly to have killed her Husband, in case she had not speedily

dily sent for a Guard from the *Stadthouse*, and had therefore ordered her Son, who was between 18 and 19 years old, with a Servant, to stand at the Chamber-door, to be ready to assist the *Ruart*, in case this *Ticklaer* should have any ill design: That they were so near, that they could distinctly hear their discourse, and particularly the *Ruart*'s, who, according to his custom, spoke somewhat loud: That after *Ticklaer* was gone, her Son and Servant related what they had heard, *viz.* that the substance and conclusion of the discourse between *Ticklaer* and the *Ruart*, was, That the said *Ticklaer*, after a long preamble concerning the badness of the times into which the Countreys were fallen, said, That he had something to discover to the *Ruart*, if he would promise him secresie: That thereupon the *Ruart* had answered in these, or like words, That if it was any good, he might freely tell it; but if otherwise, that he would do best to keep it to himself, or that else he (the *Ruart*) should discover his Informer: That thereupon *Ticklaer* had concluded with these words, *Seeing, Sir, you do not please to know it, I will conceal it; and*

so I wish you, Sir, a good morrow. With which he went out of the Room, and out of the House.

The 15th of *August*, in the evening, a report was bred about the *Hague*, that the *Knart* was escaped out of prison, which occasioned a great disorder amongst the people, who in great numbers guarded the prison-door till morning; when two Counsellers of the Court of Justice came to the Prison, and desired the *Knart* to look out of a window in his Night-gown, for that otherwise the people would not be satisfied that he was there. This in some measure quieted them, but not wholely; for the Burghers came in Arms, and ordered one Company to watch still before the Prison-door. They had desired of his Highness, that they might have the *Knart* in their keeping: but his Highness onely answered, That he thanked them for their affection to him, and that he had wholely left the *Knart* to the Court of Justice, which in the mean time was busied, without any intermission, in this weighty matter. And it seems, so much appeared by the several examinations, circumstances, &c. that

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it was resolved to put the *Ruart* to the torture, which is not practised in *Holland* but in the last extremity, and when the Judges are before very well convinced of the prisoners guilt. The particulars of what passed at the Torture, cannot positively be said, for many and uncertain stories have been told; but sure it is, that the *Ruart* always stedfastly denied what he was charged with, saying, That if they cut him in a thousand pieces, he would never confess it. However, the Court found so much, that they resolved to discharge *Trikkaer*, allowing him all costs and charges; and gave this Sentence against the *Ruart*,

The Court of Holland *having seen and examined the Charge of the Procurator General of the said Court, against Mr.* Cornelis de Wit, *old Burger-master of the Town of* Dort, *and* Ruart *of the Lands of* Putten, *at present Prisoner in the Voorpoort of the said Court; as likewise his examinations, and what had been said on his behalf; and having considered what ever related to the matter, or any way concerned it: Declare the said*

Prisoner

Prisoner to have forfeited all the Dignities and Places, which he hath hitherto served in: Farther, banish him out of the Land of Holland *and* West-Friesland, *never to return into the same, on pain of greater punishment, but that he quit it with the first: and farther condemn him in the Cost and Charges of the Court.*

Actum *by the Heer* Adrian Pauw, *Heer* Van Bennebroeck, *President*; Albrecht Nerop, William Goes *Heer of* Boekhostenburg, Frederick Van Lier, *Heer* Tot Soetermeer, Cornelius Boans, *and* Mattheus Gool, *Counsellers of* Holland *and* West-Friesland; *and pronounced in the* Voorport *of the said Court, the* 20th *of* August, 1672.

Was signed,

By my knowledge,

Adr. Polls.

Ticklaer being discharged, and come out of the *Voorport*, soon acquainted several Burghers with the tenor of the *Ruart's* Sentence; adding, *Friends, ye now see who hath been in the wrong; the Court has set me at liberty, and allowed*

saved me all the Costs and Charges I have been at in this Process, have spared the Kuart's *life, and only banish'd him: Therefore look to it, he will quickly come down from the* Voorport. This being spread about the Town; the people flocked together in multitudes, and in great disorder and consternation. In the mean time the *Kuart* had desired a Maid, that look'd after the Prison, to go to his Brother the *Pentionary*, and to pray him to come to him; which, contrary to the perswasions of those that hapned to be with him, the *Pentionary* did, and came in his Coach to the *Voorport*, and ordering the Coach-man to stay till he came down again, went up stairs, paid the charges his Brother was condemn'd in, and so meant to go out together, about 11 in the forenoon: But coming down stairs, and the outward door of the Prison being opened, a Woman that hapned to pass by, cries out to the Burghers that had the Watch, *What the Devil men is that? there come the Traitors down; drive them up stairs again, or knock them on the head.* Whereupon the Burghers commanded them to go up again, or otherwise that they would fire upon them. And when

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the *Pensionary* began to interpose his authority, one of the Burghers cocked his Musket, and directed it at him; so that they were forced to return up stairs: Whereupon the Coach, in which, it is said, the Father of these two Brothers sate expecting them, for that they were to have dined together out of Town at *Loosdaynen*, rid away. The *Pensionary*, having been a pretty while above, some body cried out, *The Knave is escaped*, the people (having now in multitudes besieged the prison. Whereupon four Burghers, and two of their Officers, went up stairs; they found the *Knave* lying in his under-cloaths, and a *Japan* Gown upon the bed, and the *Pensionary* his Brother sitting reading by him, who (being a man of great eloquence, and of an undaunted spirit, not to be changed either by adversity or prosperity, and always undisturbed in his judgment, what ever happened) so wrought, with the Arguments he used, for the justifying his Brother, upon the two Officers, that they staid and dined with them. About one of the clock, all the Burghers of the *Hague* were in Arms; two Companies posted themselves before

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the prison-door, drawn up in two Lines, whiles the rest took their stations on the *Buyten-hoff*, and in the open place on the other side. There were then three Troops of Horse in the *Hague*, who were immediately called to Arms; one Troop remained at the place of their Guard, and the other two would have passed through the *Voorpoort* to the *Buyten-hoff*; but the Burghers, opposing their Pikes and Muskets, would not permit them, so that they were forced to retire. In the mean time, the two Officers remaining longer above then was expected, the Burghers began to murmur, to throw stones, and to discharge their Muskets against the windows, till the Officers looking out, assured them all was well. And so great was their zeal to prevent their escape, that several got, with their Arms in their hand, upon the tops of the houses adjoyning to the Prison, that they might not get out that way. While things were thus, a report came, that the Rabble of the Neighbouring Villages were marching in Arms towards the *Hague*, with design to plunder it, which raised a great commotion among the Burghers; some com-

complaining, that they ſtood there to guard two Rogues, who, the following night, would one way or another certainly make their eſcape, while their houſes were in danger of being plundered, and their wives and children murdered by the Rabble of the Villages; and therefore propoſed, that the two *de Wits* ſhould be carried to the Town-houſe, where they might be kept ſecurely. Some, who were hotter, would have them diſpatched out of hand, one crying out amongſt the reſt, *Let us carry them to the Scavol, and ſhoot them.* Upon that, cries another, who would have the honour of being the firſt in ſo black and horrid an action, *Sa friends, follow me, I will lead you the way*; diſcharging his Musket at the ſame time upon the Lock of the Priſon-door, which, with the help of a Smiths Hammer, was ſoon forced open: that done, many ſtrove who ſhould get up ſtairs firſt, and having, with the ſaid Hammer, and their Muſkets, broken open the other doors they met with, as well as that of the Chamber in which the Priſoners were, they entred it, found the *Kuart* lying upon the bed in his Night-gown, and the

Pentio-

Pentionary sitting at his bed-feet, reading in the Bible; he, unmoved, aked them, *Friends, what will ye, and to what end make ye all this stir?* One of the Crew thereupon answered, *We will kill you, Villains.* And at the same time pulled the *Ruart* from the bed, crying, *Get you down, you Dog.* The *Pentionary* finding that no Arguments were able to quiet these furies, taking his Brother by the hand, went down stairs, being kicked and pushed by those that came behind them; and being about half way down, the *Pentionary* received a thrust under the eye with a Pike; being come down stairs, holding his hand before his face, because of the wound, he would have passed behind the Burghers; but they soon laid hands on him, and thrust him towards the *Scavol* on the *Buyten-hoff*, and being come to the same place, where he had just two moneths before *viz.* the 20th of *June*, been set upon by the *de Graefs*, &c. a Burgher held up his Musket to discharge it at him; but failing, with the butt end knock'd him down, who was no sooner got up again, but was knocked down the second time, several at the same time discharging their

 Muskets

Muskets at him, the Bullets piercing his head and body, that he died; the laſt words he ſpake when upon the ground, being ſaid to have been, *Well Men, Well Burghers.* His Brother, who was about ſix or ſeven paces behind him, after having received ſeveral blows and knocks, was near the Blew ſtairs run twice through the body with a Rapier, and afterwards ſhot and run through the body a third time; ſo that he was left dead on the ground. This done, the Burghers march all off with their ſeveral Companies in very good order, lodge their Colours, and diſperſe to their ſeveral homes, leaving the Bodies in the ſame place where they fell.

And now the Rabble was to act their part too in this barbarous Tragedy; they tare the cloaths off the dead bodies, tie their feet with Matches for want of Ropes, and drag them to the *Scavol*, where they hang them by the heels to the Whipping-poſt, the *Penitenary* about a foot higher than the *Ruart*, ſo that the head of the firſt juſt touched the ground, while the neck of the *Ruart* dragged, and lay bent upon it. That done, they tare off the remaining cloaths, leaving the Bodies as naked

as

as they were, when they came into the world, and carrying the torn pieces in a manner of triumph up and down the ſtreet, and crying, *Thus is the innocent bloud of* de Buat, de Graef, *and others, revenged.* Towards the evening, one more barbarous than the reſt, cut off the *Pentionary*'s two foremoſt fingers of his right hand, ſaying, *That with them he had ſworn to the Perpetuul Edict*: And being come down from the *Svavol*, there were thoſe that bid him money for them; which others hearing, went and cut off both their Ears, Noſes, Fingers, Neples, Toes, and other Members; ripped open the Bodies, took out the Bowels, and with ſticks ſet open the Bodies in the ſame manner, as Butchers ſerve the Beaſts they ſlaughter, ſelling a Toe for ten Stivers, a Finger for fifteen to twenty, and an Ear for twenty five to thirty: And, what is more horrible, there were thoſe, that having put off all humanity, turned into *Tæpoyers*, or Eaters of mens fleſh; for they tore the Bodies, as they hung, with their teeth; others cut off pieces of fleſh, went home, and cooked, and then eat it. It is credibly ſaid by thoſe, that have been eye-witneſſes, that the

Heart

Heart of one of theſe unhappy Brothers, was, on the 18th of *March*, 1673. ſhown in a Burghers houſe at the *Hague*, having been preſerved in Turpentine; and that ſeveral pieces had been torn out of it, which, the Burgher ſaid, had been done by thoſe, who came out of curioſity to ſee it, who had eaten thoſe inhumane morſels.

About 11 at night, the Rabble having vented their brutiſh rage, and being gone home with joy and pleaſure, for having performed an action, which none but the wild beaſts of ſome *African* Deſert, except themſelves, could be capable of; and even thoſe Beaſts muſt in ſeveral circumſtances have come ſhort of them. Five Footmen came with a Coach, and, by leave of the Watch, took away the Bodies, which were privately buried in the Great Church. Their Relations, as is uſual in thoſe Countreys, prepared their Arms to be hung up in the Church; but the people having notice thereof, ſeized them, and broke them into a thouſand pieces. Nay, ſo far did their rage reach to the memories of theſe two Brothers, that none of their Friends or Relations durſt wear Mourning for them.

The

The news hereof being ſpread through *Holland*, and other parts, filled all men with horrour and amazement; and even thoſe that were the greateſt enemies to the *de Witts*, and had reaſon to be ſo, as well becauſe of the great evil they had brought upon their Countrey, which might have deſerved a ſevere puniſhment, as the oppreſſion they had endured under their Government, could not but deteſt ſo barbarous and inhumane an action.

It is obſervable, that during this Maſſacre, the States of *Holland* and *Weſt-Frieſland* were aſſembled, and might, out of their windows, be ſpectators of it; and at that very time were upon chooſing a new *Pentionary*: for, as we told you, the Heer *de Wit* had quitted, above three weeks before, that Employment. By which it appears, into what a ſad condition the Government was then fallen, when the Supreme Authority was forced tamely to look on, and ſee it ſelf violated to the greateſt degree imaginable.

While this was doing at the *Hague*, the other Towns of *Holland* and of *Zealand* were not free of Civil Commotions, the people every where mutinying

ning the second time against their Magistrates, and requiring such as they liked not to be put out of the Government: And though his Highness wrote this following Letter to the respective Cities, to compose the minds of the Burghers, it was so far from having any effect, that greater disturbances arose afterwards; for they seeing, that the Prince was not willing to make the change in the Magistrates they desired, they thought they ought to do it themselves.

A Letter sent by His Highness to the several Cities of *Holland.*

THE *States of* Holland *and* West-Friesland *having, by a respectful and formal Deputation, acquainted Us, that their No. Gr. Mi. had been pleased to appoint and elect Us to be* Stadtholder *of the Provinces of* Holland *and* West-Friesland; *as likewise Captain and Admiral General over the Militia of the said Provinces, both by Water and Land, with all such Honours and Dignities, as the same was possessed by the Princes Our Ancestors: We have thought it ought to*

be

be Our first and principal care, to consider, how, and in what manner, the respect of the Government, and the quiet of the good Inhabitants of the Land might, by proper means, be re-established, and maintained as it ought for the future: And looking into the bottom of the matter, We found, that the misfortunes which it has pleased God to suffer to fall upon the State of Our dear Fatherland, through the Progresses which the King of France hath, with his Arms, so unexpectedly made into the heart of the Land, have in a great measure been occasioned through the treachery and cowardise of the Commanders, Officers, and Soldiers, to whom the principal Posts on the Frontiers of the Land were entrusted, which at first caused a great commotion, and afterwards a general impression in the minds of the people, that the Regents of the Province of Holland, and of the Cities thereof, had not directed the affairs of the publick with the zeal and fidelity they ought; and that those evil impressions had given occasion to several disturbances and tumults of the people in some Cities of Holland; by which means, the respect and obedience due from Subjects to their Supreme and Lawful Governours is fall'n, and made

of

of ſmall account: We, for the fulfilling of Our good intention, have thought it very ſerviceable and neceſſary, that in the firſt place We take the care upon Us, to cauſe all thoſe, who ſhall be found guilty of the ſaid Treachery or Cowardize, to be puniſhed according to their demerit with the utmoſt rigour, to ſerve for an example to others hereafter.

That We declare to all the world, that We have not any the leaſt knowledge, nay, even no belief, that there are any Regents of the Province of Holland, or of the Cities thereof, who have forgat ſo far their Honour and Oath, as by treachery, correſpondence with the enemies of the State, or by any other unlawful means to do or undertake any thing contrary to the duty of an honeſt and upright Regent; and conſequently that We muſt declare, that we cannot, not onely not allow, but muſt abſolutely diſavow all thoſe licentious practiſes, which are ſtill made uſe of in ſeveral Cities, and that We look upon the Authors and favourers of them to deſerve the ſevereſt puniſhment, as diſturbers of the publick peace. But however, as Our aim is on the one ſide to reſtore and maintain, as far as in Us lies, the Power and Authority that belongs to your No. and on the

the other side, the peace and welfare of the Commonalty, both which, in this perplexed conjuncture of time and affairs, is absolutely necessary; so Our opinion is, that, by vigorous Placaets, provision should be made anew, against all such disobedience, disturbances, and tumults for the future; and corporal punishment inflicted upon those that contravene to them. And your No. may be assured, that We will do Our part, that they be, with all promptitude and vigour, maintained and put into execution; and that, to that end, We will effectually employ the Power and Authority, which the Lords States of Holland *and* West-Friesland *have, in the aforesaid quality, been pleased to confer upon Us. By which means, through the blessing of God, all troubles may be composed, obedience re-established, and the Inhabitants brought again to pay the Ordinary and Extraordinary Taxes, which, for the defraying the excessive charges of the War, have been already, and for the future may be imposed; the farther threatned invasions of the Enemy, with a perfect unity, and manly courage, may be opposed; and the dear Fatherland, through the merciful blessing of God, restored to its former flourishing condition. To which We shall*

readily contribute all that shall be in Our power. And so we recommend you.

Your good Friend,

In the Leaguer
at *Bodegrave*, . *P. de l' Orange.*
8 *July*, 1672.

The States of *Holland* fearing the ill consequences of these disorders, they did, by a solemn Act, on the 27 of *August*, pray and authorize the Prince of *Orange*, as their *Stadtholder*, to alter such of the Magistrates, in the several Towns, as were suspected by the Burghers, if they could not be reconciled to them, as it follows.

Authorization of the States of *Holland* and *West-Friesland*, for His Highness to change the Magistrates in the Cities.

Saturday 27 August, 1672.

THe Raedt Pentionaris hath reported in the Assembly, the issue of the Conference, held by their No. Gr. Mi. Deputies

puties, in pursuance of their Commissional resolution of the 26. instant, with the Lord Prince of Orange, *upon the advice of the Lords their No. Gr. Mi. commissionated Counsellors, concerning the present perplexed constitution of times and affairs, and the jealousie and murmurings of the Burghers and Inhabitants, which are become publick in several Cities of this Province, against the Lords Burgermasters and Regents thereof, or some of them, more at large mentioned in the Minutes of the said 26. instant, as likewise the most wise considerations and advice of his Highness; upon which, debate having been had, it was thought good, and understood, that the above-named Lord Prince of* Orange, *as* Stadtholder *of this Province, shall be desired and authorised, as his Highness is hereby desired and authorised, to inform himself in such Cities, in which the said jealousies and murmurings are already on foot, immediately, and without expecting till they break out into tumult, disorder, or confusion, upon the desire of the Lords Burgermasters and Regents, or of the Burghers and Inhabitants thereof, or otherwise of his own motion, of the reasons and causes, which gave occasion, and the first beginning to*

the said jealousies; to endeavour, in the best, discreetest, and fittest manner, to take away and compose the said jealousies and murmurings, and to heal and reconcile the dispositions of the Lords Burgher-masters and Regents above-mentioned, with the said Burghers and Inhabitants; to represent and remonstrate to the said Burghers and Inhabitants, how ill-grounded their said murmurings and jealousies are, and to exhort them to the respect they owe their Magistrates: And in case the said murmurings and jealousies should not be able to be thereby removed, and the minds of the Burgher-masters and Regents, and of the Burghers and Inhabitants, of the said Cities, reconciled, that then his Highness shall be farther desired and authorised, as his Highness is hereby desired and authorised, in such unhappy accidents, in the best and discreetest manner, to perswade, dispose, and, in case of necessity, oblige those Regents, against whom the said jealousies and murmurings are arisen, to discharge themselves of the Magistracy, or other employments in the said Cities, and the Places, which, by vertue thereof, they hold in the Government of the Land, and to appoint others in their steads; and that the said

Prince

Prince shall be farther in general authorised, as his Highness is hereby authorised, to give such further orders in the said Cities, as well in respect of the said Regents, as in respect of the said Burghers and Inhabitants, as his Highness shall think fit, for the peace and service of the Land in general, and of the said Cities in particular. And it is hereby most expressly understood and declared, that what is above-said, shall onely be practised for this one time onely, for the removing the said jealousies and murmurings, and that without any prejudice or consequence for the future, and likewise without barming or lessening for the future the Priviledges, Rights and Liberties, belonging to the said Cities, in general or in particular: And that the said Regents shall by no means be thereby blemished, or prejudic'd in their good name and reputation, much less, by reason thereof, be argued or suspected, of not having behaved themselves in the Government as they ought. And that the said Lord Prince shall be farther desired, as his Highness is hereby desired, to take into his Highness special protection and safeguard, the Persons, Families, and Goods of the said Regents, who, as is above related, shall come to quit, with

sharp prohibitions to all persons, on forfeiture of Life and Goods, any way to molest, damnifie, or incommode the said Regents, their Families or Goods, or any part thereof. And their No. Gr. Mi. have yet farther declared, as they declare hereby, that the said authorisation is onely concluded provisionally; so that those Cities, which shall think good to make use of the said authorisation, may immediately enjoy the effect thereof; and that those Cities, which shall think the said authorisation to be to them needless and unserviceable, and shall within eight days recall their consent, shall not be charged with the said authorization: which nevertheless shall remain in its full force and efficacy, in respect of those Cities, who shall not, within the said eight days, have recalled their consent.

Agrees with the said Resolution.

Herbert Van Beaumont.

About the beginning of *September*, the Burghers of *Dort* fell into new commotions; which were first set on foot by the Company of Burghers, that had

had the Watch on the Town-house; for they, in a frolick, cut all the Cusheons, which the Magistrates, when they assembled, usually sat on, into pieces, crying, *New Lords, new Cusheons.* Others, by their example, went and pulled down the Arms of *de Wit*, and the four Burgermasters, which were upon the Organ in the Great Church, breaking them into an hundred pieces: and, to be in the fashion, every body, by some action or other, expressed his disaffection to their Magistrates.

On the 15 of *September*, the several Common Halls so ordered the matter together, that they set of all their Magistrates, Fourty in number, and deputed eight persons to his Highness, to pray he would please to appoint new ones in their stead. His Highness accordingly sent to them two Commissioners, who not being otherwise able to reconcile matters, put out of the Magistracy the Burger-master *Naaltwyk*, and Seventeen other Lords, and continued the rest, with which the people seemed satisfied.

At *Haerlem* the Burghers were not less unquiet then at *Dort*; and so great was their aversion to the Pentionary

de Wit, that upon a report that was spread abroad of the *Pensionary*'s being come into the Town, and lodged at the house of the Heer *Zuypestein*, they immediately repaired thither in great numbers, to know the truth of it; on which occasion the Rabble got into the House and plundered it. Other little disorders and uproars frequently hapn'd, which still ended of themselves. But on the 31 of *August*, the Burghers being jealous that their Magistrates secretly favoured the *Louvestein* party, they desired to remove them. They first drew up certain Articles concerning the politick Government of the City, which they, with all respect, offered to the Magistrates, and prayed, that according to them, several matters might be redressed. The Lords desired time till the next day to consider, for that it was a thing of great importance; when they declared, they were resolved to give the Burghers all satisfaction, and that to that end they would depute several persons, to whom they desired the Burghers would joyn some out of their body, to go and represent the whole matter to his Highness, and to leave it to his entire disposition.

Request

Request and Articles of the Burghers of *Haerlem*, presented to their Magistrates.

THE Common Burghers of the said City, do, with all due respect, represent, That they, suppliants, should, in this conjuncture of time, be glad to see several irregularities in their Companies reform'd and redrest, and their said Companies reestablished in a good and orderly Government: And that they, suppliants, under reverence, think, that to prevent the confusion and disorder arising from their Companies being too numerous, it would be necessary, that they should from Eight be again brought to Twelve Colours: as likewise that their Collonels, Fiscals, Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns of the said Burghers, may be, by themselves, chosen: and farther, that the said Captains, Lieutenants, and Ensigns, and other Superiour Officers above-mentioned, shall not be chosen from among the Lords of the Regents, to the end the said Lords may not be burthened with a two-fold employment, and receive any hinderance in their Politick affairs. That from the said Mili-

tary employments ſhould be likewiſe excuſed the Sons, Sons in Law, Brothers, Brothers in Law, and Unkles, to any of the ſaid Lords; to the end, that every one may diſcharge his place with full liberty, and without hinderance, to the content of the Burghers. Wherefore they, ſuppliants, have thought it beſt to have recourſe to your No. Gr. Worſhipfuls, reverently beſeeching, that your No. Gr. W. will pleaſe to conſent, that in purſuance to what's aboveſaid, their Eight Colours may be again brought to Twelve; that the Lords of the Vroetſchap, which are now of the Council of War of this City, and their Relations, as aboveſaid, may, with all reverence, be excuſed of their Employments in the ſaid Council of War, and that the Suppliants may be admitted, now and hereafter, to chooſe out of their ſeveral Companies, their own Collonels, Fiſcals, Captains, Lieutenants, and Enſigns; which being done, the Suppliants are reſolved to ſpend their Bloud and Fortunes, under the conduct of his Highneſs the Prince of Orange, *for the liberty and common peace of the State, and of this City, &c.*

Farther Articles of the Burghers.

I.

That none of the Receivers of the Eccleſiaſtical and Temporal Revenues, belonging to the City, ſhall be of the Vroetſchappen of the ſaid City; and that they ſhall yearly give a publick account to the Magiſtrates of their Receipts and Iſſues.

II.

That none of the Directors of the Eaſt and Weſt Companies, ſhall be choſen out of the Vroetſchappen of this City, but out of the principal Merchants.

III.

That the High Officers of this City, as likewiſe the Bailiuw of Kennemerland, *or* Brederode, *ſhall not be of, or remain in the ſaid Vroetſchap.*

IV.

That none ſhall be promoted to any Offices, or Employments of advantage in

this

this City, but such as are Natives thereof, or of the Province of Holland *and* West-Friesland.

V.

That no man shall hold more then one Employment within this City, provided the same be not worth to him above 400 Carolus Gild. *yearly.*

VI.

That none shall be chosen into the Vroetschap of this City, but the worthiest and discreetest Citizens, being of the true Reformed Religion, defenders of the State, and this City, of tri'd and known affection to his Highness the Prince of Orange, *and enclined to maintain the Priviledges of this City.*

VII.

That seeing the Burghers do take a solemn Oath, to maintain the Rights and Priviledges of the City, that all the Rights and Priviledges granted to the said City, from former times to this day, may be communicated to them in Print.

His

His Highness having, in the mean time, been informed of these commotions, sent a Troop of Horse and a Company of Foot, under the command of Collonel *Amelo*, to compose them; but the Burghers shut their Gates, and refused them entrance. The Deputies of the Magistrates and the Burghers being come to his Highness at *Bodegrave*, his Highness having heard them, sent them back, with admonitions, that they should have the respect for, and obedience to the Magistrates that became them, and that they should not dispute his Orders about the two Companies he had sent to their City.

The Deputies being returned on the 8. of *September*, the Burghers held a Council of War; some were for obeying the Prince's Orders, and letting in the two Companies; but the more unquiet, who were by far the strongest, opposed it, and not onely took Arms themselves, but forced those Burghers and Officers that were of the contrary judgment, to do so too, and to joyn with them. Being come together at their ordinary places of Rendezvous, they confusedly choose Twenty four Burghers, that is, three out of each

Com-

Company, which were Eight, whom they empower to dismiss the Council of War, and to order all matters, till a new one should be appointed; which done, they march'd in their several Companies to the Market-place, and there continued till about 11 at night, when they went about 9 and 10 in a Troop to the Houses of the several Regents, whom, at that unseasonable time of the night, they force to assemble at the Town-house, and there surrender their several Offices and Employments; and to deliver the Keys of the Town to them; who, it being now about Two a clock in the morning, seemed somewhat appeased, and returned to their respective homes. But with the morrow, the disorders were again renewed; for recollecting with themselves, that the Secretary still continued in his place, and that in his keeping were all the publick Papers, and Town-Seal, they resolved to mend this oversight; and the next day they accordingly obliged the Secretary to quit his Office, and all the Papers and Writings in it; which they sealed up, for want of a better Seal, with the Iron, Criminals are burnt with

on

on the back. This done, the Burghers come into Arms the ſecond time, with reſolution to admit the two Companies, ſent by the Prince of *Orange*, into the Town; and being drawn up in two Lines, on both ſides the ſtreets, they open the Gates, and receive the Companies, who marched directly to the Market-place: Being come thither, the Burghers, upon ſome new jealouſie, of they know not what, cauſed the ſaid Companies to march out again the ſame way they came, ſhut the Gates upon them, and provide them with Quarters and all neceſſaries without the Town. Hereupon the Burghers return to their place of Rendezvous at the *Doel*; the Twenty four choſen as aboveſaid, appoint a new Council of War, and nominate ſeveral new perſons for the *Vroetſchap*, putting the Thirty two old Lords firſt, and the Thirty two of their electing underneath in a Liſt; which done, they chooſe Eight Deputies to go and pray his Highneſs, that out of thoſe Sixty four he would appoint a new *Vroetſchap*, approve of the new Council of War, and order other matters for the good of their City, which was now without

without any Government at all. These Twenty four had promised themselves they should be placed, by his Highness, in the Magistracy, in the rooms of those put out; but it succeeded not to their wish: For his Highness having sent two Commissioners, the Heer *Albrecht Merop* and the Heer *Wiers*, they, after a full examination of matters, caused a general *Annestie* on the 16 of *September* to be published, restored all the old Lords in the Magistracy (except the Heer *Balthasar Coymans*, who was removed) and confirmed the new Council of War, and the *Vroetschap* as well as the said Council of War, having taken the usual Oaths before the Commissioners, all was appeased.

A General *Annestie* to the Inhabitants of *Haerlem.*

THe Lords, the Regents of the City of Haerlem, *having freely declared unto Us* Albrecht Nierop, *old Counsellor in the Court of* Holland, *and* Johan Wierts, *Counsellor and Treasurer to the Lord Prince of* Orange, *appointed by his Highness to bring the Government of the*

said

said City into good order again: That they all in general, and each of them in particular, would no more remember the disorders, for some days past committed by several Inhabitants of this City, but that attributing the same rather to mistaken zeal, then a premeditated malice, would be glad to forget and forgive, without making any farther enquiry into the said disorders, or cause any to be made: We have thought good, in the name of his Highness the Prince of Orange, *after having commended the fatherly inclination and affection of the said Regents towards their Burghers and Inhabitants, to admonish the said Inhabitants, and earnestly to charge them, as We do hereby exhort and charge them, to shew all dutiful affection and obedience to their respective Governours, to treat them with all due reverence and respect; the one Burgher not to injure the other for what is past: and further, to do all that belongs to the duty of a good Burgher and Subject.*

Understand farther, that seeing the alteration in the general Government, hath occasioned some alteration likewise in the Oath, to be taken by the Burghers, before the Council of War of the City, the said Oath shall be renewed, and command there-

therefore, that the said Council of War shall take care, to make the said Burghers comprehend the Contents of the same. Command farther, that from henceforward the Day-watches, which hitherto have been unnecessary, and even prejudiciable to the City, and burthensome to the good Burghers, shall cease, till farther order.

Through all which, we assuredly hope, that the Lords the Regents will be and remain in their credit and reputation, the Burghers in peace and quietness, and the City in its former lustre.

Done *16 Septemb.* 1672.

A. Nierop, Jo. Wierts.

Act of his Highness, for the changing the Government of *Haerlem.*

WIlliam Henry, *by the Grace of God, Prince of* Orange *and* Nassaw, *Earl of* Catzenellebogen, Vianden, Diets, Lingen, Meers, Buren, Leerdam, &c. *Marquis of* Tervere *and* Vlissingen, *Lord and Baron of* Breda, *Governour and Stadtholder of* Holland, Zealand, *and* West-Friesland, *and Captain General and Admiral of the* United Netherlands.

Make

Make known, That we taking nothing more to heart in theſe troubleſome times, then that the reſpective Cities and Provinces, which are under Our Stadtholderſhip, may be brought into ſuch order and good government, as may eſtabliſh their peace and proſperity; and it having, by ſeveral perſons, ſent for that purpoſe, been repreſented unto us, that ſuch jealouſies were ariſen in the City of Haerlem, *between the Regents and the Inhabitants, as did tend to fruſtrate thoſe our good intentions.*

And further, We being informed from the report of Our Commiſſioners, Albrecht Nierop, &c. *and* John Wierts, &c. *whom (Our weighty affairs having hindred Us from going in perſon to the ſaid City) We had ſent thither, for the taking away the ſaid diffidences, that ſeveral diſorders had been there committed on the part of the Inhabitants, againſt the Regents; We, after having heard the report of the ſaid Commiſſioners, who did inform themſelves throughly of all matters in the ſaid City, have diſpoſed and ordered upon the requeſt, and the Seven Articles preſented to us in the name of the Common Burghers, in manner following.*

Firſt,

First, for what concerns the Officers of the Company of Burghers, who compose the Council of War, We do appoint,

Dirk Deyman, *Counseller and Vroetschap of the City of* Haerlem, *to be Collonel of the old Doel.*

Florens Swan, *Counseller and Vroetschap of the said City, to be Collonel of the new Doel, &c.*

Well to be understood, that this choice shall be for this time onely, without bring drawn into consequence; but that for the future, Four persons shall be named by the Burghers, out of the Vroetschap, of which, the Burghermasters shall choose two to be Collonels.

In the same manner, the said Council of War shall name out of each Company two Captains, and two Lieutenants; of which, the Burghermasters shall choose one Captain and one Lieut. for each Company.

Two Fiscals shall be likewise nominated by the said Council; of which, the Burghermasters shall choose one: and these Elections to be every Three year.

And now coming to the above-mentioned Articles, We understand, that upon the Three first Articles, containing, that the

the Offices and Employments of Receivers, Directors, &c. ought to be separate from the Vroetschap, nothing can be yet ordered therein.

The Fourth Article being contrary to the Priviledges of the Land, and prejudiciable, as well to the State in general, as to the City in particular, cannot be granted. Nevertheless, all those that already have any profitable Places or Offices in the City, or shall hereafter be preferred to any, shall be obliged forthwith, or upon their entring upon their Employments, to become Burghers of the said City, and perform all the duties belonging to the same; or otherwise shall quit the said Places and Employments.

On the Fifth Article We understand, that no person whatever shall hold more then one place or Office belonging to the City of Haerlem; *unless the Profits of the said Place or Office does not exceed* 600 *Gilders yearly.*

The Sixth Article, viz. *that those that are elected into the Vroetschap, shall be of the worthiest and most considerable Burghers, Members of the Reformed Religion, faithful defenders of the State and the City, well affected to Our Person, and enclined to maintain the Priviledges, is wholly granted.* Lastly,

Lastly, We command, that all the Rights and Priviledges of the said City, shall, by Print, be communicated to the said Burghers, as far as shall be found fit and necessary.

Farther, what concerns the nomination of Thirty two persons, which the Twenty four Deputies of the Burghers of the City of Haerlem *have presented to Us, with request, that We would, out of the said number of Thirty two, as well as out of the old Regents, as being a double number, form a new Vroetschap; and being on the one side certainly informed, that this new nomination is very defective, so far, that the Burghers, in presence of Our Commissioners, had refused above half of the new nominated persons; and on the other side, that nothing blameable is brought against the old Regents, concerning Religion, Policy, or any Faction; but on the contrary, that the said Regents have of old been known to have been great Zealots for the good of the State, of the City, and of Our Person; We have thought good, as well out of the said old Regents, as of those now nominated, to appoint for Vroetschappen, as we do hereby appoint the following persons*

commanding Our Commissioners to receive from them, in Our name, the usual Oath.

Done in the *Hague*,
14 *Septemb.* 1672.

G. H. Prince of Orange.

A great quantity of Arms having, on the 19th of *August*, been brought into two Inns at *Delf*, occasioned at first a murmuring among the people, and a jealousie, that there was some ill design in hand; this made an uproar, and the people were inquisitive to know, from whence, by whose order, and with what intent those Arms were brought thither: And not receiving therein the satisfaction they desired, they march in a Body to those two houses. They within lock their doors and Windows, and put themselves into a posture of defence; at which the Burghers are the more exasperated, and yet more, when they saw two of their Company fall to the ground, being shot from the windows. In conclusion, having forced open the doors, plundered the House, and severely enough

enough treated those they found there, They were pacified for the present. But dissatisfactions still continuing, on the 30th of *August*, the Burghers meeting at their Rendezvouz, drew up a Request, which they appointed their Deputies to go and present to his Highness; who having perused the same, thought fit to send it back to the Magistrates of *Delf*, with a Letter to them, in which he desires their Answer to what was alledged in the said Request: With which the Magistrates were not very well pleased, because they themselves were in it particularly pointed at: however, they sent his Highness the Answer he demanded, as follows.

The Address of the Burghers of *Delf*, to His Highness.

THe *Deputies of the Burghers of* Delf, *assisted with the Heer* Zacharias Benesteyn *of* Hofdyk, *and* Theodoris Valentis, *both Vroetschaps of the said City, with all reverence make known, That they, Suppliants, and their Principals, have, for some time past, been so oppress by the* Louvestein

veſtein *Faction, that, by means thereof, not onely their Priviledges have been taken away, but the Government ſo conſtituted, that it cannot, without the total ruine of the City, be continued any longer: Wherefore the Suppliants are neceſſitated to turn themſelves to your Highneſs, humbly praying, your Highneſs will be pleaſed to change the ſaid Government, and the Officers thereof, and to purge it of the ſaid* Louveſtein *Faction. And further to ordain, that none of the Regents of the ſaid City ſhall hold more then one Office, beſides his employment of Regent: That no perſon ſhall be taken into the Regency, who is Director of the* East *or* West-India *Company: That no Commiſſioners ſhall, in politick capacities, be appointed in the Church Councils: That no perſon ſhall hold any Office, unleſs he or his Children be Burghers, and have before profeſſed the Reformed Religion: That farther, the Burghers may enjoy all Liberties and Priviledges, which they have had ſince the year* 1580. *In all which, your Highneſs will, we hope, forthwith diſpoſe, and particularly in what concerns the altering of the Government, that ſo all farther miſchiefs may be thereby prevented, the Suppliants duely governed, the Service of the*

Land provided for, the Religion, as it ought, secured, and the said unsufferable Louvestein *Faction entirely routed out. This done, we will be ready to venture our Lives and Fortunes for the State, this City, and your Highness.*

His Highness Letter to the Magistrates of *Delf.*

MOst Worshipful, wise, prudent, very discreet, particular good Friends; By the enclosed Copy of the Address of the Burghers of Delf, *your No. will understand what they desire of Us. Upon which, We have not finaly determined any thing, as considering the substance thereof to be of great weight and importance, till We have first known your No. advice and considerations therein, which We therefore desire may either in writing, or by Deputies, be sent to Us; and seeing, as your No. will judge, the thing cannot, for several reasons, brook any delay, We desire, and shall accordingly expect, that the said considerations, within Twenty four hours after the receipt hereof, may be handed to Us. On which relying, &c.*

The

The Answer of the Magistrates, to His Highness.

FOrasmuch as in the beginning of the said Address, the Suppliants say, they were assisted by the Heer Zacharias Beresteyn *of* Hoidyk, *and* Theodoris Valensis, *both Vroetschaps of the said City; their Wo. must acquaint his Highness, that the said Lords do declare, that they were not present at the drawing up the said Address, and much less, that the contents thereof were made known to them, and do disown to have set their hands to the same; but that they were onely deputed by the Burgher-masters to conduct and introduce the Deputies of the said Burghers, upon their reiterated instances and request, to his Highness.*

That which is farther set down in the said Request, that the Suppliants and their Principals have, for some time, been oppress't by the Louvestein *Faction, in that manner, that not ouely their Priviledges have been taken away, but the Government so constituted, that without the total ruine of the City, it ought not to continue any longer: Their Worships must say, That*

the ſame does not onely go beyond the reſpect which the Suppliants owe their lawful Governours, but that it is notoriouſly contrary to truth; for that their Wo. do not know of any oppreſſion the Burghers of the ſaid City have ever ſuffered, but that on the contrary, the Policy and Juſtice have been adminiſtred with ſo much mildneſs, that their Government, by that means, hath been of a good Odor to all the Neighbouring Cities, and for that reaſon many people have come and taken their habitations in the ſaid City.

That likewiſe the Suppliants had never made any complaint thereof to the Regents; and even not, when ſome weeks ſince, all the Captains, Lieutenants, Enſigns, and Sergeants, to the number of Fifty, were met at the Doele, *at the deſire of the Lords of the Weth, where they promiſed to live with their Wo. in good correſpondence, and to pay them all due obedience and reſpect.*

Their Wo. muſt confeſs, they do not know, nor can underſtand what the Suppliants mean by the Louveſtein Faction, *or what, or whom they thereby point at; for that their Wo. muſt unanimouſly declare, that having examined themſelves, they do not know any of their Aſſembly to*

have

have been guilty of any Faction, or ſuſpected thereof, and much leſs of the Louveſtein, *ſeeing the Regents of the ſaid City have always governed, and ordered their Government, without the leaſt colluſion or corruption, according to the form of the Oaths, made thereupon above fifty years ſince, &c.*

In the interim, this matter meeting with ſome delay before his Highneſs, by reaſon of the great preſſure of other weighty buſineſſes that lay upon him, the Burghers grew impatient; and by ſome of the principal among them, ſignified to the Regents, that it was abſolutely neceſſary they ſhould quit their ſeveral employments; which they, for quietneſs ſake, and to prevent all further tumult, did.

5. *Septemb.* 1673.

THE Lords Burghermaſters have acquainted the Aſſembly, that ſeveral Captains, Lieutenants, and other Officers of the four Companies of the Burghers of this City, having appeared in the Cham-

ber of the Lords of the Wet, and that having there remonſtrated, that they found themſelves neceſſitated, at the inſtances of the Burghers, that the Lords, the Fourty Common Counſellers of this City, ſhould excuſe themſelves of the Government, to the end, the ſame being done, it might be ſignified to his Highneſs, with a requeſt, that his Highneſs would ſo pleaſe to order matters in the re-eſtabliſhment of the Government, as his Highneſs ſhould find moſt conducing to the peace and ſervice of the City.

Upon which, debate having been had, all the preſent Lords of the Fourty, and the Vroetſchap, unanimonſly declared, as they declare hereby, that for peace and quietneſs ſake, they do excuſe themſelves from the Government of this City; praying his Highneſs, the Lord Prince of Orange, *ſo to diſpoſe in the re-eſtabliſhing the ſaid Government, as well as of the Places of* Pentionary *and* Secretary, *as he ſhall think moſt conducing to the peace and ſervice of the ſaid City: And the ſaid Lords of the Wet are deſired and authoriſed, as they are hereby deſired and authoriſed, to acquaint the ſaid Officers with this reſolution, and to deliver to them an authentick extract thereof, for their better information.*

Act of His Highness, for the re-establishment of the Government of *Delf*.

William Henry, &c. Prince of *Orange*, &c.

MAke known, That we taking nothing more to heart, in these calamitous times, then that the Cities and Provinces under Our government, may be brought into such good order and government, as may establish their peace and happiness: and it having been represented to Us, by persons expresly deputed, that such jealousies are arisen between the Regents and Inhabitants of Delf, *as frustrate Our good intentions, and which have induc'd the Burgher-masters, and other Regents of the said City, rather willingly to quit their said employments, than by continuing in them, to occasion any dissatisfaction and trouble amongst the said Inhabitants; We have thought fit, with Our approbation, to second the good meaning and intention of the said Regents, and accordingly We do hereby release them of their said Functions,*

thanking them for the service they have hitherto rendred the City of Delf, *and strictly forbidding all persons whatsoever to asperse the said Regents on account thereof, and much less, to molest, damnifie, or incommode their persons or goods; We taking the said Regents, their Families and Goods, to that purpose, into Our special protection and safeguard, all in pursuance of the Resolution of the Gr. Mi. Lords, the States of* Holland *and* West-Friesland, *of the* 27 August *of this present year.*

And farther, proceeding to the election of the persons, which, we understand, shall have the following employments within the said City, We appoint

Mr. Cornelis Ondewater
Pieter Abraham Hoogenhouck } *Burgher-*
Arent Beyers Vander Burgh } *masters.*
Dr. Theoderus Vallensis, &c.

And we command N. Van Santen, *Sheriff of the said City, to introduce the persons above-named into their respective employments.*

Farther declaring, That the Election of the Regents above-mentioned, in manner as above-said, hath been onely made

for

for the greater peace and service of the said City of Delf, *and for removing the jealousies and murmurings arisen amongst the Inhabitants, and that without any prejudice or consequence for the future, in respect of the Liberties, Rights, and Priviledges belonging to the said City, and the Burghers and Inhabitants thereof, which We understand shall remain in their former force and virtue. Done in the Leaguer at* Bodegrave, 10 Sept. 1672.

G. H. P. d' Orange.

On the 23 of *August*, great commotions arose at *Leyden*, which began upon small accidents, but concluded with the alteration of several of the Magistrates. For on the 30th of *August*, the Burghers drew up a Request, almost the same with that of the Burghers of *Haerlem*, which they presented to the Regents; but not receiving the satisfaction therein they expected, on the 14th of *September* they came all in Arms, and according to the example of the other Towns, obliged their Magistrates to resign; which they having done, the Burghers sent a List of

Eighty persons, adding to them Twenty five of the old Regents; out of which two numbers, they prayed his Highness would please to appoint a new Magistrate: Which his Highness accordingly did, making first choice of the said Twenty five old Lords, and supplying the places that yet remained vacant out of the Eighty.

Amsterdam, that great and populous City, though it was not disturbed with tumults and commotions to that degree, as were most of the other Towns, yet had its' share of them: For the people being apt to murmur, and on all occasions to express a great jealousie and mistrust of their Magistrates, things seemed ready for tumults and disorders. The first of any consideration that hapned, was upon the Burghers desiring the Keys of the City Gates might remain, for the future, in their keeping; that is, in the hand of those that had the Watch, and not with the Burghermasters, as had been before practised. This occasioned much disorder; for the Burghermasters were unwilling to quit a thing, they had been always in possession of; and the Burghers

Burghers would not any longer repoſe ſo much confidence in them; and the people growing thereupon very unruly, and not to be pacified with any arguments, the Burghermaſter, who had the Keys in keeping, was forced to deliver them up to the Burghers, who carried them to the Town-houſe, where they were every night ſhut up in an Iron Cheſt, and the Key of that Cheſt carried to the Burghermaſter, to remain in his cuſtody, as is practiſed to this day. This, however, could not entirely content the people, but there remained ſtill great jealouſies and miſtruſts amongſt them, which they publickly demonſtrated. The Burghermaſters, and the Thirty ſix Counſellers, who have the government of the City, foreſeeing, that unleſs ſome remedy was applied, theſe diſſatisfactions would at laſt grow to a head, and break out into a general tumult, which could not be, without extreme danger to a City, which was made up of ſuch a diverſity of Humours and Nations. To prevent the ſame, they thought it beſt to declare their readineſs, to reſign their ſeveral Employments, and at the ſame time to leave it to his Highneſs,

to appoint those that should succeed them, and to dispose of all other matters for the good of their City. But his Highness thought fit to continue all the old Lords in the Government, excepting about Twelve, in the rooms of which, he appointed new ones.

The Burghers of *Rotterdam* went yet farther then any of the other Towns had done; for not to mention the tumults and disorders that were set on foot by the Rabble, with so much insolence, that the Burghermasters were even in danger of having violence offered upon their persons. They drew up these following Articles, wherein they demanded, that several of the Regents should be taken into custody; which they were forced to yield to, provided his Highness did approve thereof: But so far was he from it, that he writ a sharp Letter to exhort the Inhabitants, to pay all respect and duty to their Magistrates, as follows.

Request

Requeſt of the Burghers of *Rotterdam*, preſented to the Burghermaſters, Vroetſchap, &c. of the ſaid City, 8 *July*, 1672. which was granted.

I.

THat *all thoſe that are deputed on the part of this City, in the Aſſembly of the States of* Holland, *ſhall be ſent for home, and others deputed in their ſteads, who are not ſuſpected by the Burghers, but agreeable to them:* viz. *the Heeren* Dykgraaf, Vander Meyde, Van Yck, Punt, de Reux, *and* Hannan.

II.

That the ſaid new deputed Lords, together with ſuch perſons as ſhall be nominated out of the Burghers, ſhall make inſpection into all that hath been treated, as well with France *as with* England. *And that a Peace be forthwith concluded with* England, *from whence Ambaſſadors are at preſent in this Countrey.*

III. *That*

III.

That Deputies ſhall be ſent by the Burghers to his Highneſs, with a double or treble number, according to former cuſtom, that out of the ſame his Highneſs may chooſe, in the room of Sonmans, *who hath abſented himſelf, another Vroetſchap.*

IV.

That the Burghermaſters and Vroetſchaps ſhall, by the ſaid Deputies, pray his Highneſs, that he will pleaſe to come into this City, in order to the changing the Magiſtrate, in ſuch manner as he ſhall think fit.

V.

That the Burghermaſters and Vroetſchaps will pleaſe to declare, that by the words, Qualities, Honours, *and* Dignities, *in their former reſolution, concerning the making his Highneſs* Stadtholder, *is underſtood by them, That the ſame abſolute power, as well in reſpect of the Oath, the appointing and diſplacing of the Magiſtrates, as in all other things none excepted, is conferred on his Highneſs,*

ness, as his Illustrious Ancestors have ever, or ever had or exercised.

VI.

The Burghers expressly understand, That the Heeren Peller, Vroesen, Gaal, Vischen, Bischop, Vander Ax, de Groot, *and* Paats, *shall provisionally be taken into custody; that is to say, those of the above-named that are absent, so soon as they shall render themselves in this City, to which they shall be summoned by publick Proclamation; and that none of the said suspected Lords, nor their posterity to the fourth generation, shall be received into the Government.*

VII.

That all above-said shall be granted irrevocably, and without any reproach.

All the said Articles are granted by the Lords Burgher-masters, and Vroetschaps of this City, in case his Highness shall approve thereof, who to that end shall be forthwith prayed to come hither.

Done 8. *July*, 1672. By their command.

A. Couwenhove.

The

The further request of the Burghers.

That all the Dignities, &c. conferred on his Highness the Prince of Orange, *&c. shall, after his decease, descend upon his Heirs Male, in case he has any. And that among the Lords, they desire to have, by provision taken into custody, is understood to be the Heer* Voorburg.

The said Articles is likewise consented to by the Burghermasters and Vroetschaps.

8. *July.*

A. Couwenhove.

Letter from the Prince of *Orange*, to the Magistrates of *Rotterdam*.

Most Worshipful, Wise, very Discreet, particular good Friends,

WHereas to our great astonishment we come to understand, that notwithstanding the unanimous conferring on Us, by the States of Holland and West-Friesland the Stadtholdership of their

their Province, ſeveral unquiet people, within your City, have, to the prejudice of the power and authority, which by the ſaid Stadtholderſhip belongs to Us, taken upon them to meddle with matters under Our care, and to lay their hands on the work of the Goverment, and on the Perſons of ſeveral Regents there; whom, in caſe they continue ſo to do, We muſt look upon as diſturbers of the publick Peace, and of your City. We, for the preventing of all miſchiefs, and for the maintenance of the lawful Authority, which in the ſaid quality is conferred upon Us, have thought fit, hereby very earneſtly to exhort your No. to take ſuch order againſt the ſaid exceſſes, that the Regents, who are threatned, or really incommoded by the arreſting of their perſons, or with any inconvenience in relation to their Houſes or Goods, may be put out of all danger and apprehenſion, to the end they may exerciſe with all freedom the ſeveral Employments to which they are called; and that all ill impreſſion, and ſiniſter preſumptions may be removed out of the minds of the Commonalty, whether in regard of any correſpondencies with the Enemies of the State, or of the evil and unfaithful conduct of any of the Regents, in the Negotiations

ations with the Crowns of England *and* France, *We declare hereby, for the satisfaction of every one, whom it may any way concern, That we do not know, nor do believe, that there are any of the Regents of your City, who can with any ground be suspected thereof; and that their No. Gr. Mi. (the States of* Holland *and* West-Friesland*) having entrusted in Us the direction of such Negotiations, as might be taken in hand for the freeing the State of Our dear Fatherland, from the evils it at present lies under; We, with all zeal and circumspection, and with a perfect knowledge of affairs, will help to advance the publick good: And therefore We do exhort your No. that you communicate to every one this Our upright declaration and meaning, to the end they may keep themselves within the bounds of their duty: And in case any thing be needful to be considered, relating to the Publick, let it be addrest to Us, not with confusion, and in a turbulent manner, but in good order. And we shall be glad to help to contribute, according as it shall be in Our power, to the common peace and good of your City and Burghers. So, &c.*

Your good Friend,
G. H. P. d' Orange.

But

But this could not satisfie the Burghers, who with their threats obliged Fourteen of the Twenty four Lords of the Vroetschappen to resign, and to subscribe this Act.

WE underwritten, being all present, as well governing Burghermasters, Counsellors, and Vroetschappen, as Secretaries of the City of Rotterdam, *having this day examined the request delivered to us, on the part of the Burghers, and observed the contents thereof, by which they seem in these perplexed times to have no satisfaction in our persons; and that it may appear, we much rather desire the peace and liberty, than to be suspected of any evil design or intention: We have plainly, to demonstrate the same, agreed to the request of the said Burghers; and therefore do each of us renounce to our said Employments, as we do by these presents renounce to them, giving leave to the remaining Lords of the Vroetschap, to proceed to the nominating of other persons in our steads; and praying his Highness the Prince of* Orange, *as our* Stadtholder, *to appoint*

point out of those that shall be offered to him, the persons to succeed us, which we promise will now, and for the future be most agreeable unto us; and that we will not do any thing to the contrary thereof, on pain of suffering the punishment due to the disturbers of the publick Peace. So truly help us God.

Act 22 Aug. 1672.

The other Cities were not exempted from these civil commotions, which hapned every where so at a time, and were grounded on the same motives, that the Burghers of *Holland* seemed to have been all governed by one Spirit, and to have conspired together in a resolution, to redeem the Government out of the hands of the *Louvesteiners*, who had so long Lorded it over them, and been the occasion of so much misery and distraction to the whole State; and if for the accomplishing of it, they were forced to proceed, in a manner, that savoured of tumult, it must be considered, that there was no other way left them, and

that

that to desperate diseases, violent remedies must be appli'd. The disorders and violences that were on this occasion committed in several places, are by no means to be justified, nor were they approved by the soberer and better sort of the Burghers, who endeavoured all they could to keep the Rabble from running into those extremities; insomuch that in several places, the Burghers kept for whole days together in Arms, as well to secure their Cities against the violences of the ordinary sort of people, who were glad of any opportunity of doing mischief, as for any other reason whatever: And if in general the Inhabitants of *Holland* did not act with that respect and decency towards their Magistrates, nor with that order amongst themselves, as became them, but suffered themselves to be hurried to and fro with violent motions; we ought to attribute it to the publick distraction and confusion of the time: And let this consideration in some measure excuse them, That in great and unexpected accidents, men are not always masters of that reason and moderation, as on other occasions. And was it not most strange and surprizing,

prizing, that a State, ſo puiſſant and formidable, ſhould, as it were, in a moment become the ſpoil and conqueſt of its Enemie, without any oppoſition; and that its Inhabitants, who gloried in their wealth and trade, ſhould, even before they had time to apprehend the danger, be deprived of all, and forced to go and ſeek new habitations, or elſe to ſubmit under the yoke of the Conqueror. This might well diſtract the greateſt Philoſopher, and the ſobereſt Citizen, and in that diſtraction make them do, what otherwiſe they were moſt averſe to.

The Reader may perhaps expect to have now as particular an account of the commotions, which hapned much about the ſame time in *Zealand*; but they having ſo great a reſemblance with thoſe of *Holland*, that it would almoſt ſeem a repetition. I ſhall onely ſay in general, That the Burghers of *Zealand*, obſerving into what a ſad condition they were fallen, and without hopes almoſt of preſerving themſelves any longer, thought there was no other way, of putting themſelves into a poſture of recovery, but by removing firſt the cauſes of their preſent diſtempers,

and

and therefore reſolved, as the Burghers of *Holland* had done, that the whole courſe of the Government was to be changed, and reſtored to its former ſtate and harmony: To this end, they make addreſſes every where to their Magiſtrates, for the placing the Prince of *Orange* in the *Stadtholderſhip*, for the putting all thoſe out of the Regency that were of the *Louveſtein* Party, and the ſupplying their places with ſuch men, as had no other intereſt, but what depended upon the good of their Countrey. This could not be done, but that the ordinary ſort of people made uſe of the opportunity to commit great diſorders, by which the Cities of *Middleburg* and *Vluſſing* ſuffered above the reſt; for they being full of Seamen, and ſuch like people, were ſubject to great diſturbances, ſo far, that the Regents were often in danger of their lives, and having their Houſes plundered, and pulled down to the ground. The Women had likewiſe a great part in all the tumults that were raiſed; nay, many times were the Actreſſes and chief continuers of them. But the advancement of the Prince of *Orange* put an end to theſe miſchiefs; yet not throughly,

throughly, till he came in perſon into *Zealand*, and ſetled the Magiſtracies, and all other matters. In which his Highneſs had not that regard to the ſatisfaction of the Commonalty, as they expected; his Highneſs being on all occaſions ſo far from countenancing their tumultuary proceedings, that as far as the conſtitution of the time would permit, he diſapproved, and made uſe of his Authority to ſuppreſs them, and to maintain and protect the old Regents.

Things being thus ſetled, the States of *Holland* and *Weſt-Frieſland* thought fit to publiſh a general Pardon for all offences and miſdemeanors that had been committed during thoſe commotions in *Holland* and *Weſt-Frieſland*; ſtrictly charging and commanding all people to have for the future all due reſpect and obedience to their Magiſtrates, and not to offend or injure them by word or deed: And laſtly, declaring, that thoſe that during the ſaid commotions, had been put out of the Magiſtracies, or other publick Employments, ſhould not be prejudiced in their good name, or reputation, or ſuffer any reproach or moleſtation whatſoever on that account. This

This being done, mens minds were compoſed on all ſides, the authority of the Magiſtrates was re-eſtabliſhed, the State returned to its antient form of Government, all fears and jealouſies were removed, and peace and quietneſs was reſtored at home, a great ſtep towards their better ſucceſs abroad.

As I did not give any particular account of the Fall of the State of the *United Provinces*, in relation to its affairs abroad, ſo ſhall I not go about to relate the particulars that hapned towards its Recovery; my purpoſe notbeing to engage my ſelf into the Hiſtory of the preſent War, but ſhall onely ſay, what is moſt notorious to all the world, That the affairs of thoſe Countreys immediately upon the Reſtauration of its antient and happy Government, changed for the better, and have hitherto continued ſo to do; inſomuch, that was it not for the burthen of ſo great a War, as at preſent lies upon them, they might be counted as powerful and happy as ever; and this, after they had been reduced ſo low, that three of their Members were quite lopped off, and the reſt in apparent danger of running the ſame fortune. How much the *Hollanders*

owe for this, under God, to the prudence, valour, and wiſe conduct of the Prince of *Orange*, of which he hath given teſtimonies, far beyond what might have been expected from his years, and equal to, if not exceeding the examples of his Noble Anceſtors: we will believe they are ſufficiently ſenſible, and that the Intereſts of the State, and of his Highneſs, are bound up together, and hardly to be ſeparated without the ruine of the one and the other. Which the States of the ſeveral Provinces having rightly conſidered, they thought it ought to be their care to provide for the future, as far as in them lay, againſt thoſe miſchiefs, that had been occaſioned in the State, and of which they were witneſſes, by the excluſion of the *Stadtholder*, and to eſtabliſh the Government, as it had pleaſed God again to reſtore it, on an unalterable foundation, by doing of which, they would at the ſame time expreſs their gratitude to the Prince of *Orange*, and ſecure their own peace and welfare.

And therefore in *February*, 1674. the States of *Holland* and *Weſt-Frieſland* paſſed a ſolemn Act, for the making the

the Prince of *Orange* Hereditary *Stadtholder*, Admiral and Captain General of their Province.

Extract out of the Reſolutions of the States of *Holland* and *Weſt-Frieſland*, taken in their No. Gr. Mi. Aſſembly.

Friday 2. *February*, 1674.

THe *debate having been reaſſumed, upon what had been propoſed by the Deputies of the City of* Haerlem, *on the* 23 *of* January *laſt of this preſent year* 1674, *in the Aſſembly*, viz. *Whether it ought not to be ordained by the Government, that the* Stadtholder, *Captain and Admiralſhip General of* Holland *and* Weſt-Friesland; *as likewiſe the Captain and Admiralſhip General of the* United Netherlands, *ſhould, after the death of the Lord Prince of* Orange *without Heirs, ſucceed and devolve to the lawful male Iſſue, begotten by his Highneſs in lawful Wedlock: as in the Minutes of the ſame date is more at large mentioned. The Lords of the Ridderſchap and Nobles, as likewiſe the Deputies of the reſpective Ci-*

ties, in the name, and on the part of the Vroetschappen of the said Cities, have unanimously declared, as their No. Gr. Mi. by these presents do declare, That they having seriously considered the state and constitution of the Government of these Lands, so as the same hath been in former times, by the blessing of God, under the Illustrious Princes of Orange, and likewise most particularly what hath passed and hapued therein during these 23 or 24 years, have seen and found; That this State, since the sad and unhappy year of 1650, hath strugled with many calamities, as well at home as from abroad: That forasmuch as concerns the affairs of abroad, It had almost never been without a War, or the fear of a War: That in the year 1653, a heavy War did arise between the Kingdom of England and this State, which had greatly shaken the foundation of these Lands. That having hardly taken breath in that War, the State was again in 1656 engaged in one with the Crown of Portugal; and afterwards in the year 1658 and 1659, fell sufficiently into an War, on account of the War arisen in the North. That again, in the year 1664, a new War broke out between the King

of Great Britain *and these Lands. That that War was but newly ended, when this present sad and lamentable War did arise; and that between the times the State had been engaged in these open Wars, it had been forced to suffer many indignities from those Neighbours, by whom it had been formerly respected. That for what concerns the affairs at home, the Republick had been greatly disturbed with civil discords and dissentions. That from the year* 1650 *to the year* 1660, *very many Members had wholely withdrawn their eye from the present Prince of* Orange, *the onely remaining Male-Heir of that Illustrious House; and that some other Members had with much zeal maintain'd, that his Highness ought not to be neglected. That the King of* Great Britain *being, in the year* 1660, *invited by the Parliament there to the same Kingdom, and taking his journey thither through these Countreys, the State had declared, as well to his Majesty, as to the Princess Royal Dowager of* Orange, *It would take care of the Interests and Education of his said Highness, sufficiently designing him to the Dignities possessed by his Illustrious Ancestors in these Countries. But that after the death of the said Princess Royal, the*

Members began to cool again, and to lay that affair aside. That afterwards the State had again taken upon it self the said Education. And lastly, that in the year 1671, and in the beginning of the year 1672, great differences did arise about the electing his said Highness to be Captain General over the Militia of these Lands. That sad experience had learnt them, that the said dissentions had given occasion to the Enemies of the State, to insult over it, knowing it to be made incapable, through want of that desired Unity, on which our Ancestors had, with the merciful blessing of Almighty God, laid the foundation of this Republick, to take care of its own defence and preservation; and that the differences which every foot arose about the electing a Chief over the Militia of these Countries, and the jealousie which, on that occasion, the one had of the other, did retard and hold back the debates and resolutions, which ought necessarily to have been taken for the opposing of Forreign Force, and that that time was spent in unnecessary disputes, which, above all, ought to have been taken care of; that the said divisions had been the cause, that in the latter end of the said year 1671, when the most Christian King

publickly

publickly enough declared, that he would attack theſe Lands with War, whole moneths were conſumed with debates, concerning the electing a Captain General; and the perſon of his Highneſs, who ought then to have been employed to raiſe Soldiers, and to make ſuch other proviſion, as the defence of the Land required; and that by means thereof it had hapned, that when his ſaid Chriſtian Majeſty, in the ſaid year 1672, did fall upon the State with his Arms, the ſame became in extreme danger of being utterly ruined and deſtroyed: That their No. Gr. Mi. had thereupon unanimouſly thought, that nothing better, and more ſalutary, could be found out or hoped for, then that on the one ſide, the occaſion of the ſaid diſſentions might be entirely taken away, to the end the State might never again fall into thoſe great inconveniences, which it had at preſent eſcaped; and on the other ſide, that the great ſervices performed by the Illuſtrious Houſe of Orange, *in the erecting and preſerving of the State, might be acknowledged. And accordingly the abovementioned Lords of the Ridderſchap, and Nobles, as likewiſe the Deputies of the reſpective Cities, in the name, and on the part of the Burgermaſters and Vroet-*

ſchappen of the ſaid Cities have unanimouſly conferred, as their No. Gr. Mi. do hereby confer upon his ſaid Highneſs, and his lawful Male Children, Childrens Children, deſcendants, and farther Poſterity, in lawful Wedlock begotten, the Stadtholder, Captain and Admiralſhip General of and over the ſaid Province of Holland *and* Weſt-Frieſland, *with all the Dignities, Preeminences, Prerogatives, Rights, and Dignities thereunto in any wiſe belonging, none excepted, ſo, and in ſuch manner, as the ſaid Stadtholder, Captain and Admiralſhip General of and over the ſaid Province, is at preſent poſſeſſ'ed by his ſaid Highneſs; and conſequently that after the deceaſe of his ſaid Highneſs (whom their No. Gr. Mi. wiſh and pray the Almighty Lord God will for many years happily bleſs and preſerve) the ſaid Stadtholder, Captain and Admiralſhip General of and over the ſaid Province of* Holland *and* Weſt-Frieſland, *with all the ſaid Dignities, Preheminences, Prerogatives, Rights and Dignities thereunto belonging, none excepted, ſo, and in ſuch manner, as the ſaid Stadtholder, Captain and Admiralſhip General of and over the ſaid Province is at preſent poſſeſſ'd by his ſaid Highneſs, ſhall deſcend, ſucceed,*

ſucceed, and devolve upon the lawful Male Children, Childrens Children, deſcendants, and farther Poſterity begotten by his Highneſs, in lawful Wedlock, and by his lawful Male Children, Childrens Children, deſcendants and farther Poſterity in lawful Wedlock begotten. And farther, it is by the ſaid Lords of the Ridderſchap and Nobles, as likewiſe the Deputies of the reſpective Cities, in the name, and on the part of the ſaid Cities, thought fit and underſtood, as their No. Gr. Mi. do hereby think fit and underſtand, that Letters ſhall hereof be diſpatched in due form, under the Great Seal of the Land, for the uſe of his ſaid Highneſs, his Highneſs lawful Male Children, Childrens Children, deſcendants, and farther Poſterity in lawful Wedlock begotten, and Authentick Copies thereof ſent to the Council, Court, and Chamber of Accounts, of the Revenues of Holland *and* Weſt-Frieſland, *to be regiſtred there. That farther matters ſhall in the generality be ſo ordered on the part of their No. Gr. Mi. that the Captain and Admiralſhip of the* United Netherlands *may by their Hi. and Mi. be likewiſe conferred upon his Highneſs, and his Highneſs's lawful Male Iſſue, begotten by his ſaid Highneſs.*

in lawful Wedlock. And that thereof Letters may in due form be dispatched and given out, under the Great Seal of the Generality, for the use of his said Highness, and his Highness lawful Issue, begotten by his said Highness in lawful Wedlock.

Agrees with the said Resolution.

Simon Van Beaumont.

On the same day the States of *Zealand* conferred likewise upon his Highness the Stadtholder, Captain, and Admiralship General of their Province.

Extract out of the Minutes of the No. Mi. Lords, the States of *Zealand*.

2 *Feb.* 1674.

DEbate having been again had, concerning the perpetuating the eminent and great Employments, at present so worthily held and possessed by his Highness the Prince of Orange, *for the greater service of the Land, and encrease of the Honour and Lustre of the said Prince,*

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in his Highness Male-issue by succession; and the Deputies of the respective Members having thereupon communicated with the Lords their Principals, and at the opening of their respective Advices, unanimously considered, that there is nothing more dangerous, and of worse consequence, then to make the Foundation, Ground, and Maxims of State, on which a well-ordered Republick is built, unsteady and arbitrary, which sad experience has, to our sorrow, in these Countreys, taught; when men began to alledge, that there was no need of an eminent Person, for the directing of the affairs of Policy, Justice, and the Militia; notwithstanding this Republick had not onely been always used to one, but thereby was quickned, and grown great. To which innovation, the death of his Highness Prince William *of* Orange, *of never dying memory, in the year* 1650, *gave the sad occasion; which was then the rather laid hold on, for that there was no Successor of the Illustrious House of* Orange *of age, and his present Highness had no right of Survivance or Succession; by which means, many divisions at first rose between the Allies, and afterwards great intreagues, jealousies, and factions; the one adhering*

hering to the old and foundamental Maximes of the Government, and the Illustrious House of Orange, *which had rendred the state of these Countreys such great, and not to be rewarded Services, and from which, for the future, no less were to be expected: The other ingratefully forsaking it, and giving themselves up from one dangerous innovation to another, which had been never known or seen by our Fore-fathers. And these dissentions remained rowling and fermenting in the Body of the Government, till at last such extremities and commotions followed, after that so many other disasters and Wars, since the aforesaid year* 1650, *had befallen the state of these* Lands, *which some likewise knew to make use of, for excluding what was in the nature of the Government of these* Lands, *and shut up in the hearts of all, as experience hath taught; and that the Bands with which they went about to force in these good thoughts and motions, have at last broke asunder, and are destroyed. All which would, without doubt, never have been attempted, in case the present Prince of* Orange, *at the death of the Prince his Highness Father, of never dying memory, had of right succeeded in his Highness Dignities, or been*

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in time elected thereunto: By which likewise occasion would not have been given to Forreign Powers, first, to penetrate into the secrets of the State, which ought carefully to be shut up; and afterwards so to oppress these Countries, and to bring them into extreme danger. And that therefore it belongs to the Supreme Government to make such Orders and Laws, by which such like extremities may be prevented, and the Liberty, Religion, and the lawful Government of these Lands secured, which have not been in little danger. All which, the Members have all unanimously judged, cannot be better and more securely effected, then by establishing that firm by Succession, which some, contrary to the property and nature of the Government, have endeavoured to loose, and even wholely destroy; to the end an high and Illustrious Descendant of the House of Orange *may always be at hand, to exercise the high and eminent Charges of Stadtholder, Governour, Captain and Admiral General, from which the state of these Lands hath received such great and faithful services, and yet daily receives from the present Prince of* Orange, *and has yet much more to expect from his Highness: Upon all which, the Lords the States of* Zealand *having*

having made serious reflection, their No. Mi. after mature deliberations, have of their certain knowledge, and by vertue of their full power and authority, thought fit and understood, that the eminent Dignities of Stadtholder, Governour, Captain and Admiral General of the Land and County of Zealand, *as likewise of the Land of* Vorne *and the* Briel, *as also of the State and Dignity of first Noble of this Province, and of Captain and Admiral General of the* United Netherlands, *after the death of his Highness the present Prince of* Orange, *(whom their No. Mi. wish and pray Almighty God will many years happily bless and preserve) shall descend, succeed, and devolve upon the Lawful Male Descendants, by his said Highness, in lawful Wedlock begotten: Of which communication shall not onely be given to the Lords the States of* Holland *and* West-Friesland, *but all endeavours used in their Hi. and Mi. Assembly, that in respect of the Captain and Admiralship General of the* United Netherlands, *all the Allies may together take a like Resolution.*

Utrecht

Utrecht, *Gelderland*, and *Over-Issel*, being recovered out of the hands of the *French*, and restored to their former state and Government, likewise made his Highness Hereditary *Stadtholder* of their Provinces respectively, and Captain and Admiral General. The Provinces of *Friesland* and *Groninguen* having a *Stadtholder* and Captain General of their own, Prince *Henry* of *Nassaw*, Cousin-german to the Prince of *Orange* by his Mother, Daughter to Prince *Hendrick Frederick*.

The States of *Gelderland* would have gone yet farther, and instead of *Stadtholder*, and Captain General, desired to make the Prince of *Orange* Duke of *Gelderland* and Earl of *Zutphen*, as well in gratitude for the great and eminent services his Highness had rendred the State in general, and their Province in particular, as to make a lasting provision for their own peace and welfare. Of which Proposition, some malevolent people made the construction, of his Highness affecting a Sovereignty over the whole State; from which he was so far, that it appears his Highness had never any intention of accepting this

this offer of *Gelderland*, and much less had any hand, or any other on his part, in disposing the States to make him such an offer. I shall say no more on this Subject, but give you the Translations of the Original Transactions, which will best inform you in this great matter.

The Offer of the Nobles, and and Cities of the Quarters of *Nimmeguen*, *Zutphen*, and *Arnhem*, to his Highness the Prince of *Orange*.

THE *Nobles and Cities of the Quarters of* Nimeguen, Zutphen, *and* Arnheim, *representing the States of the Dukedome of* Gelderland, *and the County of* Zutphen, *each for themselves, Assembled Quarter wise, according to the Power granted them by his Highness the Prince of* Orange *the second instant* Stilo loci, *having conferred together upon the Points which highly concern the Service and Welfare of the Land, and withall, considered, how grievously the wonderful hand of God hath been pleased for some few years past, to visit this Province, and to give it into the Power of its Enemies,*

so

so that the Country hath been wasted, and the Inhabitants thereof brought to utter Ruine; yet that it had pleased God, of his Great Mercy, to raise up the Prince of Orange, *as a Champion and happy Instrument, and so to Bless his Person with extraordinary Conduct and Courage, that the Enemies were driven out again, and forced suddainly to quit this Province, its Cities and strong holds; In which the said Prince following the Glorious Examples of his Ancestors of hapyy Memory, hath exposed his Person, and Life, for the good of the Land, to the utmost dangers, which calls for the greatest Gratitude, that next to God is due to Man; and their No. Mi. having looke into, and considered the extraordinary Misery, into which they are fallen, and the great and not to be rewarded Services and Fatherly care of the said Prince of* Orange, *have after mature deliberation, for weighty Reasons, and for the good of the Land, the Inhabitants and Subjects of the same, unanimously thought fit, and resolved, to offer the said Prince of* Orange, *the Supreme Government of the Dukedome of* Gelderland, *and County of* Zutphen, *with all the Dignities belonging to the same, under the Title of Duke of* Gelderland,

land, *and Count of* Zutphen, *and to desire his Highness to accept of the said Supream Government, on the Conditions and Stipulations following.*

Viz. *That the said Offer be made to the said Prince, his lawful Children, Childrens Children, Descendants, and farther, Male Posterity, which his said Highness, his Male Children, and Childrens Children, shall beget in lawful Marriage, namely to the Eldest, or to such as shall succeed in the Hereditary Stadtholdership of the other Provinces, to the end, this Province may remain inseparable in the Union, with the others; And in case of failure, of Heirs Males and Descendants, that then the Supream Government shall again return to the Nobles and Cities of this Province, in the same manner as it was before this Donation; and that it may not by any Treaty be alienated to any other.*

That the true Protestant Religion shall continue to be professed, in the same manner, as it was established in the Synod at Dort, Anno 1618. *and* 1619. *and is now publickly professed, according to the Laws of the Land, which his said Highness, and his Descendants, shall always promise to Maintain and Protect,*

and

and shall permit no change to be made in the Church Government, and much less suffer the Romish, or any other Religion to be exercised, but on the contrary, shall with all vigour oppose the same.

That in case his said Highness, or those that shall succeed him, in linea masculina, *come to Decease, (which God of his Mercy forbid) leaving Male Issue behind them, under Age, That then during their Minority, the Government shall remain in the hands of the States of the Province, as likewise the Curatorship and Administration of the Revenues of the Dukedome and County.*

That his Highness shall be to the States and Subjects of the Province, a Good and Gracious Duke, Earl, and Lord, protect them in their Old Priviledges, and confirm and strengthen the same to them, and shall approve and confirm, as well to the States in general, as to every one, and to the Nobles in particular, all their Priviledges, Freedoms and Liberties, Old and New Customs, as well Spiritual as Temporal, their Ranks, Honors, and Rights, their manner of calling the States, and their Seal granted by Emperors, Kings, Dukes, Dutchesses, Counts, Countesses, Lords, and Ladies, Spiritual and Temporal;

poral, as all Governing Princes, Earls and Lords, have used to do upon their coming to the Government; and farther, to do all that a good Prince ought, for the good of his Country.

And the States are confident, that it will not be displeasing to the Prince Regent, that they desire rather to be Governed by himself, then by a Stadtholder or Governor, and that his Highness will please, not to burthen the Province with any Governor or Stadtholder.

However, if through lawful and urgent Reasons, his Highness shall have his Residence out of the Province, and the Jurisdiction of the State, and that his Highness shall think fit to make choice of a Governor or Stadtholder, it shall be necessary, that he profess the Protestant Religion, understand the Language, and be acceptable to the States.

That the Privilegium de non evocando, *granted unto this Province, by the Emperor* Henry *the Fourth, and confirmed by* Charles *the Fifth, shall be maintained.*

That in publick Offices, Commissions and Employments of the Province, shall be put Natives or such as have been Inhabitants, and have had Goods or Possessions

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in the Province, for the space of Ten years; That the Person enjoying such Office, shall execute it himself, and profess the true Reformed Religion, as is above.

That the Duke shall enter into no War, or Alliance with Forreign Princes, neither make nor abrogate Laws, nor change the Publick Coyn, but with the consent of the States. Farther, that the Inhabitants of the Dukedome and County, shall not be charged with any Taxes, or unusual Impositions, but only such as are given, and agreed to, by the Nobles and Cities, according to former custome, who shall likewise take care, that the Allowances, Charges, and Revenues of the Province and Quarters, shall be duly satisfied.

That the present Order of disposing of Spiritual Benefices, shall be observed, and that the Possessors shall enjoy their Rights and Customs.

That his Highness shall take care, that the Demesnes of the Dukedome and County shall be duly regulated, preserved and improved; That his Highness shall not without the consent of the States, Charge, Alienate, Morgage or Pawn the same; and shall not suffer that the Records relating to the publick Revenues, be carried out of the Province; and that the Rents,

Allow-

Allowances, and Charges, which are assigned thereupon, shall be duly payd.

And to the end the said Demeans may the better suffice thereto, some means shall be thought on, to better and improve the same, and to free them from the Charges now upon them, and for that purpose Consultation shall be held with his Highness, how they may be eased by certain Subsidies.

That his Highness shall permit the Cities and Subjects of this Province, who enjoy any Priviledges of the Haus Towns, still to enjoy the same.

That his Highness shall not grant Reprisals against the Inhabitants of this Province, and as far as in him lies, prevent their being Granted by any other, unless Justice hath been first denied to any person within the Land.

That the Investiture of his Highness, and his Successors, Dukes and Earls, shall be performed within the Province, by the States of the Land.

That the Union made between the United Provinces, *in the Year* 1579, *at* Utrecht, *shall in all its Points be Sacredly observed and performed, wherein his Highness shall maintain the* States-General; *and shall not depute or employ any persons*

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in Commissions, and in the Colledges of the Generality, but Members of the Ridderschap and the Cities, who have legal right to the Government, according to what has been hitherto observed in the several Quarters.

And that the States may for the future be fully secured; his Highness shall obtain of the several Allies, an Act of Security, that this Province shall remain in the Union, and by virtue thereof, enjoy all the Rights, Powers, and Authorities, it did before the Invasion and Conquest of the French, *to the end, that if (which God in his Mercy never permit) his Highness should come to Dye without Male Heirs, or if his Heirs should happen so to Dye, this Province might remain in its former State, and retain the same Power and Authority it had, before this Donation of the Supream Government to his Highness.*

That the manner of the Provincial Government and Assemblies shall continue, as it hath been heretofore practised and established, being composed of the Nobles and Cities of the several Quarters of the Province.

That the general Assembly of the Land, shall be held every year, being convoked by

by his Highneſs, or ſuch of the Colledges of this Province, as ſhall be thereunto authoriſed by his Highneſs, in order to their conſulting for the good of the Province. That likewiſe the ſaid General Aſſembly, and the Aſſembly of the reſpective Quarters, may be held extraordinarily, as often as the Nobles *and the Cities of the ſaid Quarters ſhall think it expedient, for the good and welfare of the* Province.

The Cities of the Quarter of Zutphen, *as likewiſe the Cities of* Arnhem, Wagenningen, *and* Elburg, *ſay, That when the convoking the Aſſembling of the Quarters is ſpoken of, that theſe words, according to old cuſtom, muſt be added, Thoſe of the* Ridderſchap *of the County of* Zutphen *and* Velawe; *the Cities of* Harderwyck *and* Hattem *likewiſe ſay, That they conſent, that the Aſſemblies of the Quarters be convoked by the chief Cities, with the communication and conſent of their Deputies; which the Cities of the Quarter of* Zutphen, *and the three Cities of the Quarter of* Arnhem *oppoſe. The Nobles of the ſaid Quarter, and the Cities of* Harderwyck *and* Hattem, *leave it to the diſpoſition of his Highneſs.*

That the States of the reſpective Quarters, ſhall retain their Cuſtoms in impoſing

poſing of Moneys; as likewiſe in what relates to the management and diſpoſal thereof; and the adminiſtration of Spiritual Revenues. That his Highneſs ſhall ſuffer the Colledges of the Court of Juſtice, and the Chamber of Accounts, to remain in the ſame ſtate as formerly; and as for ſuch Places *as ſhall become vacant in them, and all ſuch other Offices and Employments as heretofore were diſpoſed of by* Nomination, *a double number ſhall, according to the practiſe, hitherto obſerved in the ſeveral Quarters, be preſented to his Highneſs, to make the choice according to his pleaſure. The perſons that are made choice of for theſe Employments, ſhall be ſuch, as underſtand the Cuſtoms, Rights, and Uſages of the Dukedom and County. But for what concerns the places of* Receiver General, Griffier, Momboir, Deputy Momboir, Auditor, Griffier, *and other inferiour Offices, they ſhall be in the ſole diſpoſal of his Highneſs. For what concerns the Commiſſions without the Province, and in the Generality, in the Council of State, in the General Chamber of Accounts, in the Colledges of the Admiralties, as likewiſe in the* Eaſt *and* Weſt-India *Companies, and for what concerns all Military Em-*

 ployments,

ployments, as well in Garrisons as elsewhere, they shall be absolutely disposed of by his Highness; yet so, as for what concerns the said Commissions, being subject to turns, they shall be onely disposed of for the term of six years; and that in them shall be observed the turns, as well between the respective Quarters, as in the said Quarters, between the Nobles and the Cities, as hath been hitherto practised.

That the Inland deputations in the several Quarters shall be made, according to what has been hitherto observed; and that the Places of Receivers General, in the several Quarters, and the Places of the Secretaries of the Deputies becoming void, a double number shall be presented to his Highness, to make choice of one.

That the limits of the Land shall be preserved and maintained, so as they were before the Invasion of the French; *and that care shall be taken, that the said Province, neither in part nor in whole, shall be divided or alienated, and that such Places and Rights as have been taken from it, may be recovered and restored.*

And his Highness is friendly and earnestly desired, that he will, as soon as possible, establish the Provincial Govern-

ment,

ment, and will please to take care, that in the establishment of the same, men of possessions in this Province, may be preferred before others; and that a general Landday may be appointed to consult with his Highness about what is above-mentioned; and finally, to perfect and conclude the same, whereupon shall follow the Investiture, &c.

Done in our respective Quarter-Assemblies, and adjusted in *Arnhem*, 19 *Jan.* 1675.

Underneath stood,

By the command of the Quarters of *Nimeguen*, *Zutphen*, and *Arnhem*.

Signed,

C. Klerck. *Secret.* Jod. Ciemer. *Secret.* Jos. V. Ham. *Secret.*

The States of *Gelderland* having accordingly, by four Deputies, who waited upon his Highness at his House at *Zuylesteyn*, made his Highness the said offer of the Sovereignty of their Province, and humbly prayed his acceptance thereof. His Highness thought fit to write to the several Provinces, to ask their advice in so important a matter, as follows.

No. Gr. Mi. Lords, particular good Friends,

WE *cannot omit acquainting your No. Gr. Mi. that the Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as also the Regents of the respective Cities of the Dukedom of* Geldre, *and the County of* Zutphen, *first assembled quarterwise in their respective Cities, and afterwards being assembled together as States, have thought fit to confer upon Us the Supreme Ducal Government of the said Dukedom and County, under the Title and Dignity of Duke of* Geldre, *and Earl of* Zutphen; *with request, that We would nominate certain Commissioners, to concert and agree upon the Conditions and Obligations*

gations that go herewith, with the said Lords of the Ridderscap and Nobles, as likewise the Regents of the said Cities; as your No. Gr. Mi. will more fully understand by the enclosed Resolution, as an extraordinary proof of the affection, inclination, and great confidence, that the said Lords of the Ridderscap and Nobles, as likewise the Regents of the respective Cities, have for and in Our Person. Yet we have not been able to resolve therein on the one or the other side, but have thought fit to communicate the same to your No. Gr. Mi. as our particular good Friends, with earnest and friendly request, that in so important an affair, your No. Gr. Mi. will assist Us with your good and wise counsel; that so being inbewid with your considerations and advice, We may, with the greater quiet, take a good resolution in this weighty matter: which expecting with the first from your No. Gr. Mi. known inclination to Us-ward, we commend your No. Gr. Mi. our particular good friends, into the protection of God.

Zuylestein, 31 Jan. 1675.

Your No. Gr. Mi. Friend to serve you,

G. H. P. d' Orange.

Upon receit of which Letters from his Highneſs, the States of *Holland* immediately aſſembled, and after ſome days of debate, and difference of opinion amongſt the Members, the one thinking that his Highneſs ought to accept of the ſaid offer, others not; they came finally to this reſolution: That his Highneſs ſhould be humbly thanked, for having been pleaſed to deſire their advice in ſo great an affair; in which they could not poſitively adviſe his Highneſs, but left it to his great wiſdom and prudence, which they doubted not but would direct him to proceed, as ſhould be moſt conducing to the good and welfare of the State, and his own honour and happineſs.

Extract

Extract out of the Resolutions of the No. Mi. the States of the Land of *Utrecht.*

The 29 *Jan.* Old Style, 1675.

THe debate having been resumed upon the Letter of his Highness the Prince of Orange, *as likewise the Conditions and Obligations, on which the Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as also the Regents of the Cities of the Dukedom of* Gelderland, *and the County of* Zutphen, *have offered his said Highness the Supreme Government over their Province, more at large mentioned in the Minutes of the 25th instant, It is, after having heard the report of the Heer* Ruisch, *and other Lords their No. Mi. Deputies, who in pursuance of their No. Mi. Commissional Resolution of yesterday, have examined the said Letter and Conditons, unanimously resolved as follows.*

The States of the Land of Utrecht, *according to the accustomed manner summoned and assembled, having seriously*

read and examined the Letter of his Highneſs the Prince of Orange, *dated the 31 of this inſtant moneth of* January, N. S. *containing in ſubſtance, that the Ridderſchap and Nobles, as likewiſe the Regents of the reſpective Cities of the Dukedom of* Guelder, *and the County of* Zutphen, *being firſt aſſembled Quarter-wiſe in their reſpective Quarters, and afterwards altogether as States, having found fit to confer on his ſaid Highneſs the Ducal Supreme Government of the ſaid Dukedom and County, with the Title and Dignity of Duke of* Gelder, *and Earl of* Zutphen; *with a requeſt, that his ſaid Highneſs would pleaſe to nominate certain Commiſſioners, further to concert and agree with the ſaid Lords of the Ridderſchap and Nobles, as likewiſe the Regents of the Cities aforeſaid, the Conditions and Obligations, on which the ſaid Offer is made; his Highneſs had not been able to reſolve therein on the one or the other ſide, but had thought fit to give communication thereof to their No. Mi. with very friendly requeſt, that they would aſſiſt his ſaid Highneſs, in ſo important an affair, with their good counſel, conſiderations, and advice: And further, having heard read the ſaid offered Condi-*

tions and Obligations, the said Lords the States, upon a premised and serious deliberation, have understood, and found good to declare, as their No. Mi. do hereby declare, That the offer is to them heartily pleasing and acceptable, being unanimously of opinion and advice, That his said Highness ought graciously to accept and embrace the said offer, by which the said Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as likewise the Regents of the Cities aforesaid, are manifesting their sincere confidence, esteem, and unfeigned affection in, and to the Illustrious Person of his said Highness; as also their real gratitude, and true acknowledgments, of the great and extraordinary Services and advantages, performed for, and procured to them, in redeeming their Province through his wise conduct, and invincible courage, under the blessing of God, out of the imperious power of their Enemies, on such conditions as shall, by mutual concert, be farther agreed between the said Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as likewise the Regents of the Cities aforesaid, their No. Mi. heartily wishing, that Almighty God will please to bless his said Highness his acceptance of the said offered Supreme Dignities and Government, with all happi-

ness, welfare, and prosperity; and him with a glorious and plentiful encrease of more Dignities and preheminences; to which their No. Mi. declare, they are ready and enclined to contribute on all occasions to the utmost of their power; and accordingly their No. Mi. have understood and consented, as they hereby understand and consent, that in case his said Highness shall think fit, and resolve to accept and embrace the said offered Supreme Government of, and over the said Province of Gelderland *and* Zutphen, *the said Province, as well during the Government of his said Highness, and his Male-Issue and Descendants, as in case of their decease without Heirs Males, (which most sad calamity, Almighty God in his infinite mercy never permit to befall the Land) shall always be, and remain inseparable in the Union made here in the year 1579, between the Allies, and shall have and enjoy in the generality all such Rank, Power, Right, and Authority, as the said Province had and exercised before the Invasion of the* French. *And it is further thought good to desire and depute, as are hereby desired and deputed, the* Heer Rosa Van Durchenburg, *and Burghermaster* Nelleſtein, *together with the*

Secretary

Secretary of State, humbly to acquaint him with, and to present to his Highness, this their No. Mi. Declaration and Resolution, with most friendly request, that he will please to hold the same as agreeable and acceptable.

His Highness Answer to the States of Utrecht, *concerning the offer of* Gelderland.

No. Mi. Lords, particular good Friends,

THe Heeren *Rosa* of *Dyckenburg*, and *Nellestein*, and your No. Mi. Secretary, have acquainted Us with, and delivered to Us the Resolution taken in your No. Mi. Assembly, the 29th of *January* last, *Stilo loci*, being an Answer to the Letter written by Us at *Zulestein*, the 31. of the same Moneth, New style, and in it the advice of your No. Mi. which at Our desire you have been pleased to give Us, upon the Proposition made to your No. Mi. *viz.* whether we should accept or excuse the Ducal Supreme Government of the Dukedom of *Gelder*, and

and County of *Zutphen*, offered to Us, with the Dignity of Duke of *Gelder*, and Earl of *Zutphen*, by the Ridderſchap and Cities of the ſaid Dukedom and County. And we have underſtood from your ſaid Commiſſioners, and ſeen by your ſaid Reſolution, that your No. Mi. are of opinion, that we ought to accept the ſaid Dignity. We find Our ſelf obliged to thank your No. Mi. for the pains you have taken in your deliberations about this matter, and for the ſingular affection and inclination which your No. Mi. have always had for Us, and of which, in the ſaid Reſolution, you have given very extraordinary expreſſions and proofs; and it cannot but be very pleaſing to Us to find, that the affection and confidence, which the other Inhabitants of the Land have likewiſe for, and in Our Perſon, have not raiſed any jealouſie or ſuſpition in your No. Mi. and that your No. Mi. have judged, that we ought not to fruſtrate the ſaid Inhabitants of the hope they had in that reſpect placed on Us. But whereas we have been informed, that the acceptance of the ſaid Dignity would raiſe in ſome great jealouſies and apprehenſions,

and

and that some would conclude from thence, that We had in this present War onely regarded Our Own Greatness, and lookt after more Power and Authority; We, the better to confute so foul and shameless calumniators, though Our former Actions, and even Our proceedings in this Affair, have given proof sufficient of the uprightness of Our intention, and Our accepting or refusing the said Dignity, will make those evil intended men neither better nor worse, have thought good, in the best and most forcible manner, to thank the said Lords of the Ridderschap and Cities, for the offer of the said Dignity, and to acquaint your No. Mi. therewith. With which concluding, &c. At *Arnhem* $\frac{20}{10}$ *Feb.* 1675.

Your No. Mi.

Friend to serve you,

G. H, Prince d' Orange.

Resolutions

Resolutions of the No. Mi. the States of *Zealand*, concerning the Dukedom of *Gelder*, and the County of *Zutphen.*

15 *Febr.* 1675.

THe respective Members having been again summoned, positively to declare themselves, upon the Letter of Convocation, and the pieces accompanying it, concerning the offer of the Supreme Government, and Sovereignty of the Dukedome of Gelder, *and the County of* Zutphen, *made to his Highness the Prince of* Orange; *and his Highness desiring thereupon the good and wise advice of this Province; the Deputies of* Middleburgh, *by command of their Principals, have said, That in this high point they could not proceed separately from* Holland; *that therefore they ought first to know what had been resolved by that Province; that otherwise a separate advice of this Province would be of no effect, but occasion misunderstanding between* Holland *and* Zealand; *That therefore farther Letters ought to be expected. That otherwise it being*

being at present reported, that the Province of Holland *had drawn up, and sent his Highness the reasons that were for and against this matter, to choose thereout what he should think best, the Lords of* Middleburg *were enclined to accommodate their opinions thereto. The Deputies of* Ziericzee *complained, that they and other Members had been so long held up by the Deputies of* Middleburg, *that this their advice was no advice; that the Deputies of* Ziericzee *had been at first blamed for coming unprepared. That his Highness had not desired them to confer in this affair with* Holland, *but had required of each Province apart their counsel and good advice. That on this account no Letters were to be expected. That the States of* Holland *were separated, and had not given any communication to this Assembly, of what they had done in this matter, and that it was not to be expected they should; and that therefore the Lords of* Middleburg *would please, not to defer their positive advice thereupon. The Deputies of* Ter-goes *agreed in substance with those of* Ziericzee, *adding, that they would return home again, in case it was intended thus fruitlessly to hold them up any longer. All the other Members likewise*

argued,

argued, that the Deputies of Middleburg ought to give their positive advice, and having been thereupon summoned accordingly, they, with reference to the good liking of the Lords their Principals, have declared for their opinion and advice, with promise to correct it on the morrow. That the reasons which may serve for the perswading the acceptance and refusal of the said offer of Gelderland, should be drawn up in writing, and sent to his Highness, to do therein, as in his great wisdom he shall think fit. The other Members have not been able to look upon this advice, as a positive advice; The Deputies of Zieriexee and Goes adding, That it was strange the Lords of Middleburg would not declare themselves in the matter, having had so long time to deliberate about it; and seeing they were not to be perswaded thereto, all the other Members declared, they would give their positive advice: And the Deputies of Zeiricxee accordingly said, That the Lords their Principals having maturely consulted together in this important affair, and having seriously considered all the reasons for the perswading the acceptance or refusal thereof, had commanded them to bring in for their advice. In the

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first place, That his Highness should be highly, and in the best manner thanked, for the honour he had done the Province, in asking this their advice; and that his Highness would please to look upon the States of Zealand for his good and faithful Friends, and that the Lords their Principals would advise his Highness as such, to excuse the offer made by Gelderland, for that they judge, the same to be by no means serviceable to the Land in general; that it was much to be disputed, whether it could consist with the Union, that the one Province should sit there, and be governed by a Sovereign, and the other by States, as hath hitherto been; That this disparity would raise great disputes, jealousies, and divisions, for that by that means the antient form of Government would be changed; That the Inhabitants of the Land, who had heretofore so greatly murmured, that his Highness was not sooner advanced to the eminent Charges of his Illustrious Ancestors; wherein this Province had always laboured, might easily seem dissatisfied at this change; and the rather, for that it reflects upon the other Provinces, though it now seems to concern Gelderland onely: That the name and apprehension of a Sovereign, since

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their casting off the King of Spain, *and the establishing the laudable Government of these Lands, which now hath lasted above an Hundred years, had been odious to all the Inhabitants, for that they loved their Liberty above all things, and that under that name, and the effect thereof, Commerce and Trade flourished; and likewise that the form of the Government in these Lands ought to be preserved, as it was given by God from Heaven to the good Inhabitants; and accordingly that it was best and surest to remain thereby; by means whereof, his Highness enjoys so much Honour and Lustre, as well within as without the Land, and withal is possessed of the affection of the Inhabitants, who with great confidence and satisfaction behold, that his Highness, through his high Employments, hath the direction and exercise of almost all the principal parts of Sovereignty, while the Property thereof remains to the States of the respective Provinces; and that the offer of the Dukedom of* Gelder, *and the County of* Zutphen, *or of any other Province, would not encrease that Honour and Lustre, but would lessen that confidence; That the Lords the Regents of* Ziericzee *therefore meant, that they are*

his

his Highneſs beſt and moſt faithful Friends, who diſſwaded him from ſuch and the like offers; and on the contrary adviſed him to maintain the old and laudable Government of theſe Lands. And that therefore they do unanimouſly adviſe the ſame, as true Patriots of their Fatherland, and Lovers of his Highneſs, in diſcharge of their Places, Oaths, and Conſciences; not doubting, but that this their Uprightneſs and Candor will be agreeable to his Highneſs.

The Deputies of Goes *ſaid, That the Lords their Principals had, with great reſpect, ſeen the Letters, in which their advice was deſired by his Highneſs the Prince of* Orange, *and declared, That they would help to return upon his Highneſs as much honour and thanks as any Province, for the unrequitable ſervices he had rendred the State; but that that could not be by ſuch like offers, as was now made by the Province of* Gelderland, *for the reaſons repreſented at large by the Deputies of* Zerickzee; *That it was hardly to be thought, that this offer had been unanimouſly reſolved on in* Gelderland; *That they thought it very dangerous to accept it, when they throughly and duly conſidered the foundation, upon which the*

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Government of these Lands was built, and to which the Inhabitants naturally inclined; That the name of Duke or Earl was very odious, and that as much hate and dislik would be taken up against it, as there was at present found love and satisfaction. That his Highness is placed in the high Dignities and Employments of his Illustrious Ancestors, and the Government by that means brought into its antient Trackt. That by these naked Titles of Duke and Earl, no more Power or Authority would be added to his Highness, then he at present exercises, as by the advice of the Lords of Zierickzee is at large expressed; and that the Inhabitants under the sweet name of Liberty, are to be readily brought to all Services and Taxes, which they would under a Sovereign never endure to that degree, as former times have made appear. That likewise the Union, into which they of Gelderland *are now re-admitted, with the same rancke they had formerly, cannot well bear this Government of two kinds; That the same would occasion continual divisions and jealousies, and particularly against the Province of* Gelderland, *which would be always thought to have more countenance and advantage, then*

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any of the other Provinces. And that this beginning of Gelderland *would seem to perswade the other Provinces, to make his Highness an offer likewise of the Sovereignty, and to bring all under the government of one Head, which, it's to be feared, would not be done without great confusion, and raising the fury of the Inhabitants more then heretofore, All Commerce and Navigation would withdraw, the same loving a free Government; That it was likewise an ingratitude against God, to change a Government, which, by its antientness, is so enforced, and wonderfully preserved and blest from Heaven, without that there appear any reason or need of it. That the Lords of* Goes *do therefore hope, that his Highness will decline this offer of* Gelderland, *and that they on the part of the Lords their Principals, pray his Highness maturely to consider things, and to choose rather as Governour, Stadtholder, and Captain General, to help to direct and manage, with the love and affection of all, the affairs of the Fatherland, and of each Province, then to take upon him any other Name or Quality, which will not be of that order and consequence: And that accordingly a Letter of dissuasion should be dispatched*

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in the most respectful terms, and that his Highness be particularly thanked, for the honour and confidence, which he hath been pleased to have in, and manifest to the States of Zealand; *declaring that this their advice proceeds from the uprightness of their intentions, for the best of the Fatherland and his Highness, and for the discharging their Oath and duty. The Deputies of* Tholen, *in pursuance of the good intentions of the Lords their Principals, have declared, That having maturely considered the reasons, which have induced the Lords of the Ridderschap and Nobles, as likewise the Regents of the Cities of* Gelderland, *to present to his Highness the Dukedom of* Gelderland, *and the County of* Zutphen, *they have found them very well grounded, as taking their rise from a natural gratitude they owe their Deliverer, which in effect can never be sufficiently recompenced and acknowledged. That they (the said Ridderschap and Regents) had seen the ill defence which had been made in their Province, through the small authority of, and confusion in their Government, and would therefore very wisely provide thereagainst for the future, by chooſing a Chief or Duke, on whom they might confidently*

repose

repoſe the care of it, and that the whole State ought to be ſatisfied therewith; conſidering, that the Province of Gelderland is as the Suburb of the other Provinces, which by that means will be ſecured. That this offer does not concern the Union, ſeeing the Province of Gelderland muſt be look'd upon as a Conquer'd Province; That likewiſe none of the Provinces had any reaſon to take offence thereat, ſeeing the deſerring of theſe high Qualities, does not in the leaſt reflect upon them, but upon the Province of Gelderland onely; and that men ought to be ſatisfied, that the misfortunes which from thence befell the State, will now under his Highneſs be provided againſt. And that therefore the Lords of Tholen could very well perſwade the acceptance of this offer, and congratulate his highneſs thereupon; as likewiſe the Regents and Inhabitants of Gelderland and Zutphen, who have reaſon to give God thanks for it, ſeeing under his Highneſs, as their Duke and Earl, they are going to live a quiet and peaceable life.

The Deputies of Vliſſing ſaid, That they do not find the matter of that importance, as ſome of the Members think it. That it was a meer act of complaiſance of

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his Highness to ask advice of the Province of Zealand, for that the affair concerns Gelderland onely; and that the Province of Zealand is not interessed therein, and consequently that the matter does not reflect upon it; That Gelderland was obliged to give some eminent proof of their gratitude to his Highness, by whose wise conduct, had been wrought their deliverance, and that this offer was but a small part of what they farther owed him; That the Provinces of Holland and Zealand had first made his Highness Stadtholder, and afterwards Hereditary Stadtholder, as a demonstration of their affection and gratitude, yet no body had been disturbed thereat; and therefore that there was no reason to disapprove this good inclination and motion of Gelderland; That likewise this disapproving was very ill grounded, as if it were necessarily to follow from thence, that a Sovereign was to be set over the whole State, which is not concerned therein, and that no resemblance can possibly be made with this Province in this matter; That in respect of the State in general, a great security will be brought to it through this Donation, for that, as the Lords of Tholen have said, Gelderland is the Suburb of

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the State, and better care will be now taken there, and the Province of Gelderland, *without doubt, kept better to the performance of their consents; and in respect of the Union, that this offer is by no means contrary thereunto, for which sufficiently was provided by the Capitulations. That likewise in this matter, going upon wrong foundation, such abusive Arguments were not to be made use of, or suffered to come abroad, that no distrusts may be raised amongst the people. For all which reasons, the Lords of* Vlissing *should in the best manner thank his Highness, for the communication given them, and for his having desired their advice, and would pray him to accept of the offer of* Gelderland, *not doubting, but the blessing of Heaven would attend it.*

The Deputies of Ter-vere *desired, that the reasons,* pro & contra, *in this great affair, might against to morrow be drawn up, and that they might be sent his Highness, without perswading or dissuading, with their most respectful thanks for his communication and desired advice.*

The 16th of *Feb.*

THE *Deputies of* Middleburg *being desired to declare themselves farther on the great point in debate, have, by special command of the Lords their Principals, said, for their positive advice, That thanks should in the best manner be returned to his Highness the Prince of* Orange, *for the communication given, and desired advice: That in the affair it self, after having well weighed it, very many difficulties and considerations did arise, as well in respect of the Union, as the Person of his Highness; and that therefore they referred it to his great wisdom, to do therein, as his Highness should think best, for the common good, the quiet of the Fatherland, and the good Inhabitants thereof.*

The Deputies of Tervere *having been likewise desired to give their positive advice, have said, by special command of the Lords their Principals, that they had as great affection for the Prince as any, yea, as for their own lives; and in this affair considered three things.* 1. *In respect of the Province of* Gelderland *it self,*

self, that they did very ill in going about to give away their Sovereignty, without acquainting the other Provinces, contrary to the Union, which made all the Provinces as one Province; That the Regents were not the Sovereigns, but onely the Representatives, and were obliged to transmit the Government to their Posterity, so as they had received it from their Ancestors. 2. In respect of his Highness Person, that the affection and good will of the Inhabitants, the Government remaining as it now is, was more worth, then an empty Name and Title. 3. That the peace and welfare of the Fatherland depended on that form of Government, which was at present established, under which Commerce and Trade was best carried on, and flourished; That the Lords of Tervere *did not therefore think, that there was any ground for the perswading the acceptance of the offer made his Highness, by those of* Gelderland, *but on the contrary to dissuade the same, for the further reasons yesterday at large expressed by the Deputies of* Ziericzee *and* Goes; *and that the example of* Gideon, *the Judge of* Israel, *was very proper to be followed on this occasion. Which two advices having been heard, and the advices of the*

four others, in the Minutes of yesterday at large expressed, being joyned therewith, and a draught of an Answer to be sent to his Highness, at the desire of most of the Members, being prepared by the Raedt Pentionaris, and presented to the Assembly; after the Question had been several times put, without being able to reconcile the Advices of the Members: It is at last, with plurality of Voices, concluded, to advise his Highness the Prince of Orange, *not to accept the offer made by those of* Gelderland, *of the Ducal Supreme Government of the Dukedom of* Gelder, *and County of* Zutphen, *and to acquaint his Highness therewith by a respectful Letter. A draught of which being drawn up, was agreed to, as it here follows.*

Letter

Letter of the No. Mi. the Lords the States of *Zealand*, to his Highneſs the Prince of *Orange*.

WE have received your Highneſs's Letter of the 31 *paſt, together with the Reſolution accompanying it, of the Ridderſchap and Nobles, as likewiſe of the Regents of the reſpective Cities, of the Dukedom of* Gelderland, *and the County of* Zutphen, *concerning the offer made to your Highneſs of the Ducal Supreme Government and Sovereignty of the ſaid Dukedom and County, under the Title and Dignity of Duke of* Gelderland, *and Earl of* Zutphen. *Upon which we, in the firſt place, find our ſelves obliged, highly to thank your Highneſs, for ſo frank and candid a communication, and particularly for that your Highneſs, before you would declare your ſelf on the one or the other ſide, had been pleaſed ſo obligingly to deſire the aſſiſtance of our good and faithful advice; and farther, to ſtile and honour us with the quality of your Highneſs particular good Friends. As we have always in effect, with the greateſt inclination and fidelity, ever ſince your Highneſs*

memorable birth, even in the worst and most difficult times professed our selves to be, and always wished, and laboured to have those eminent Employments and Dignities conferred upon your Highness, which had so worthily and so happily been possessed by your Illustrious Ancestors, and which the Service and fundamental Maxims of the State, and your Highness own merits, required and demanded, as after a long, troublesome, and unworthy opposition, through Gods merciful and wise government, to our great content, hath at last hapned, and afterwards been made sure by hereditary possession to your Highness lawful Male Descendants; so that the State of the United Provinces is now, and for the future, brought and established in that form of Government, which God himself seems to have given them from Heaven, and by means whereof they heretofore were so well governed, and grew to that greatness and welfare. Upon these sure and blessed grounds, our affection and fidelity to your Highness, and your Illustrious Descendants, shall never cease, but last for ever. But as for our serving your Highness with our good and faithful advice in this important affair, we must plainly confess, that we find so many

scruples

scruples and difficulties in it, as well in respect of the general and particular Government of these Provinces, as in regard of your Highness Person, that we in this, as in many other things, must have recourse to your Highness great wisdom and discretion; and the true knowledge your Highness has of the nature and constitution of the government of the State in general, and of each Province in particular, and which way the humour and inclination of the good Inhabitants turn: all which, the better to balance, and that the weight may encline on that side, which may be to the satisfaction, peace, and service of the common Fatherland, and your Highness greatest honour and reputation, is, in our opinion, to decline the offer of Gelderland, *made to your Highness, according to the laudable example of* Gideon, *the Judge of* Israel, *when like offer, in his time, was made to him by the People of God, in gratitude for his having so happily delivered them out of the hands and slavery of the* Medianites: *Like as by your Highness, so much good hath been brought to the Fatherland. And so praying God, &c.*

In the Hoff of *Zealand* at *Middleburg*, 16 *Febr.* 1675.

His Highness Answer to the Letter of the States of Zealand, *of the* 16 February.

Noble Mighty Lords, particular good Friends.

WE have received your No. Mi. Letter, written the 16. of the last Month, in the *Hof* of *Zealand*, at *Middleburg*, being in Answer to our Letter of the 31 of *January* last, and containing your No. Mi. advice, upon the offer made us by the Lords of the Ridderscap and Nobles, as also the Regents of the Respective Cities of the Dukedome of *Gelderland*, and the County of *Zutphen*, of the Supream Ducal Government and Soveraignity of the said Dukedome and County, under the Title and Dignity of Duke of *Gelderland*, and Earl of *Zutphen*. We have likewise received your No Mi. Resolution of the 15 of *February* preceding, containg a particular Account of the Advices of the respective Members, which compose your No. Mi. Assembly, and delivered their opi-

opinion in this matter. We find our ſelf obliged to thank your No. Mi. for the pains you have pleaſed to take, in coming together, and informing us of your No. Mi. Conſiderations, in ſo important a matter, as likewiſe for having given us ſo particular an account of the ſeveral Advices, at large expreſſed in the ſaid Reſolution of the 15. and for the expreſſion which your No. Mi have in your ſaid Letter made uſe of, to aſſure us of their affection and inclination to us ward; For ſince we have hitherto principally laboured, and do ſtill labour, more and more to ſtir up the love of the good Inhabitants of theſe Lands to our Perſon, and to let them ſee, that all we have with the Bleſſing of God taken in hand, hath principally been intended to free them from the Evils into which they were fallen; to take care, through the goodneſs of the ſame God, that this Land might be brought into ſuch a State and poſture, as that they might at laſt find more quiet and ſafety, then they have for theſe 24 years laſt paſt, and to preſerve them in the free exerciſe of their Religion, their Liberty and Priviledges, both which were ſo dearly

bought by their Anceſtors, and preſerved by them; We will willingly acknowledge, that it is extreamly pleaſing to us, when we perceive the good Inhabitants of this State, to the beſt of their power meet our good intentions with a like good inclination towards us, and that the remembrance of what through the Mercy of God we have performed for theſe Lands, is from them an affectionate acknowledgment. And therefore likewiſe we cannot hide from your No. Mi. That we have with great pain and ſorrow plainly underſtood from the advices of ſome of the Members of your No. Mi. Aſſembly, that many of thoſe who participate of the Government, have not ſuch an opinion of us, as we had hitherto perſwaded our ſelf, our actions had in effect deſerved, and that the uprightneſs and confidence, which with ſo much openheartedneſs we have uſed towards your No. Mi. hath only ſerved to ſtir up in many people, and even in many of the Regents, as appears by the ſaid Advices, a ſuſpition and apprehenſion, as if we had a deſign to procure to our ſelf the Soveraignity of the Land, and to make uſe of the offer

fer of *Gelderland* to us, as a means, to obtain the Soveraignity over the whole State, to spoyl the Lands of their Liberty, to banish all Commerce from thence, to dissolve the Companies erected by order of the State, to destroy the Banks in the Cities, & to annul the Security of the Obligations, which are charg'd upon the Land, & to render the good Inhabitants at home, and the Trading Merchant abroad, unsecure of their Estates and Effects, nay to spoyl them of them; and that they, who were the forwardest and eagerest to take up such thoughts against us, were the truest and faithfullest Lovers and Patriots of the Fatherland. We know not, that during the whole time of our Life, we have given any occasion for so malicious and odious a suspition, or that we have ever, or even by any of our Actions demonstrated, that our Thoughts have gone that way, and that we should have merited to be thus Treated. They that know what hath passed during the whole course of our Life, till the beginning of this present War, must be convinced, That those who had in their hands the Government of the State, would very unjustly

justly have shut us out from those Dignities, which our Ancestors had possessed, so much for the Service of the State, and that even afterwards, they so limited that part, which as a most particular Grace they seemed to leave to us, that we were by that means made wholly unable, to serve the Land, as it ought; yea, that in respect of our private Estate and Rights, they endeavoured to take away the Prerogatives that had always belonged to them, and that they stuck not to baptize what ever was taken in hand, for the lessening and oppressing of us, with the Name of maintaining the Liberty and Priviledges of the Fatherland, as if we had been the person that was to be lookt upon as the oppressor of the Liberties and Priviledges; when in truth, those Defenders of Liberty and Priviledges were onely Defenders of their own greatness and power, raised and crowded into the Government in a most particular manner above their fellow Burghers, all those who blindly followed their Sentiments and Cabals, without having any regard to the Liberty or Priviledges, and ordered and fashioned the Government of the respective

spective Cities, now thus then so according to their own pleasure, and not according to the Priviledges, so that till the beginning of this present War, we were in no other State, then such as forced us to support whatever was thought fit to be prescribed us; and since the present War fell upon the State, so much to the Ruine of the whole Land, and the good Inhabitants thereof, we thought we had sufficiently manifested, that we have not lookt upon our own Estate and Interest, nor our Life too dear to be by us readily offered up for the Service of the Land, and for the preserving and maintaining the good Inhabitants thereof, in their Liberty, Priviledges, Navigation, Commerce, and Estates. It cannot be out of the Memory of any one, that when in the Year 1672, the Enemy through Gods particular permission, was entred into the heart of the Land, and that it came now upon the Point, to defend the Liberty and Priviledges of the Land, and the true Worship of God, with Lives and Fortunes, according to the worthy Example of our Ancestors, and that in effect, Men ought to have shewed themselves true

Patriots,

Patriots, and Lovers of Gods holy Word, and the so dear bought Liberty, very many of the Regents endeavoured to Treat with the Enemy, upon such dishonourable and destructive Conditions, That Religion, Liberty, Priviledges, and every thing else, would have been thereby lost, and that they who before, had for our oppression, most in their Mouths, the Defence of Liberty and Priviledges, were the most forward and zealous to advance those scandalous conditions, and that the opposition of the good Inhabitants of the Land, and of several sincere Regents, who could not understand to be in such a manner deprived of those dear Pleadges, could hardly hinder the progress of that Negotiation; All the World must likewise acknowledge, That it was we, that relying upon the goodness of Almighty God, and the Justice of our Cause, did as much as in us was, oppose that dishonorable Treaty, and hinder it from coming to effect, however, we have by the continuance of the War, suffered in all our Goods and Estates, as well in these, as in Forreign Lands, more then any of the other Inhabitants.

None

None can likewise be ignorant, That when the said Enemies, knowing how greatly we disliked the said dishonourable Negotiation of Peace, and that our opposition did chiefly hinder its progress, would afterwards have brought under the Conditions of Peace, that the Soveraignity of this State should be conferred upon us, with what zeal and constancy we opposed such conditions, and manifested that those Propositions were highly disagreeable to us. All the Inhabitants of the Land, will also remember, that when the Burghers and good Inhabitants of all the Cities in *Holland* and *Zealand*, in the said year 1672, were dissatisfied with their Magistrates, and all together desired a change in the Government of the said Cities, and to that end employed our Authority, we were that person that endeavored to quiet these id Burghers, and good Inhabitants, and as far as was possible, to remove all Dissatisfactions, without going about in any manner, to serve our self of that opportunity, to assume any more Power or Authority then belonged to us, which would have been very easy for us to have done. And truly we could never have imagined, that

that what we have with ſo much uprightneſs done for the Service of the Land, the conſervation of the true Worſhip of God, the maintaining the Liberty, Priviledges, and Rights of the Land, the Fiſherie and Navigation, the Commerce, Goods, and Effects of the good Inhabitants, ſhould ſo ſoon have been forgotten, and Men could ſo ſoon have taken up a wrong ſuſpition, that we would aſſume to our ſelf the Soveraignity over theſe Lands, and ſpoyl thoſe good Inhabitants, who had ſuffered ſo much, and to our great ſorrow muſt ſuffer yet more, and who had given ſuch extraordinary proofs of their affection towards us, of all they have, whereas, when we had ſufficiently in our hands the opportunity of obtaining the ſaid Soveraignity, we have not onely, after mature Conſideration not thought fit to make uſe of the ſaid occaſion, but publickly declared our extreame averſion thereunto. And certainly if we had any appetite to accept the Soveraignity of *Gelderland*, and by that means make an example, to be followed by the other Provinces, we ſhould not have left the acceptance or refuſal thereof, to the advice of the

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States of any of the other Provinces, but as we might have done, without any hesitation proceeded in the matter. And therefore we could not have expected, nay, we cannot believe, that any ingenious Man, can with reason say, that we have by our proceedings in the said affair merited, that Men should charge us with such odious and ungrounded suspitions, as by some of the Members in the said Resolution is done, particularly when those Men well know, or might well inform themselves, that not the least occasion was given by any through our direction or on our part, or any other means made use of to move or induce any of the Members of the Provinces of *Gelderland*, to confer upon us the said Dignity, or likewise to induce the Members of the other Provinces, to advise the acceptance of the said Dignity. And that therefore such suspitions can only proceed from an evil intention, and we should for that reason wish, that those Men would declare, what had moved them, or what Actions we have knowingly or unknowingly done, capable of raising such a suspition, that we may have occasion to take the same away.

We

We do by no means complain; that ſome Members have been of opinion, that we ought to decline the ſaid Dignity, and that they have enforced their opinion with Reaſons and Arguments ſerving thereto, for therefore we deſired their advice, and thank the Members that they have freely and openly adviſed, ſo as they underſtood the matter, but we may well complain, that ſome under pretence of giving their advice, have charged us with the Regents and Good Inhabitants of the Land, with ſo odious ſuſpitions, which are not grounded on the leaſt likelyhood of any appearance, only to leſſen the good Will of the ſame Inhabitants towards us, and to ſtir them up againſt us. We have not in the leaſt heſitated abſolutely to refuſe the ſaid Dignity, notwithſtanding the Lords of *Gelderland* did very earneſtly preſs our acceptance thereof, and that very many Members of the other Provinces, adviſed us to accept the ſame; while in our ſelf we have not, nor never had any Inclination to accept the ſaid Dignity, and therefore with the greater facility and ſatisfaction could follow the advice of thoſe, who though fewer in

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number, dissuaded us from accepting the said Dignity, and we so well know the constitution of the Land, that we can assure your No. Mi. that our dislike and aversion to such like Dignities, shall never change, even as of our own motion, and before we had received your No. Mi. Resolutions, we had put by the said Dignity. We know not whether the example of *Gideon*, alleadged by your No. Mi. is very applicable to us, and heartily wish, that we so ordered our Lives, that we might rightly assume to our selves, the Title of Gods People, and that the Lord our God is our Lord; but Men have heretofore shown, that no such great account was made of the Heritage of the Lord, when Men could think fit to abandon great part of the Provinces, which by Gods Mercy are now restored to the Union, to the Enemy professing a Religion wholly opposite to the true Reformed Religion, and so to cause the exercise thereof to cease there, and that Men endeavoured to execute that with less jealousie and aversion in respect of the Enemy, then is now taken up against us, for that the Province of *Gelderland* offers us the Dignity

nity of Duke and Earl, on conditions, which would keep the same Province always in the Union. We might from thence much sooner take suspition, that we ought to fear, that it may well prove true, what Gods Holy Word observes with so great Trouble, in respect of the House of *Gideon*, *viz.* That the Children of *Israel* had forgot the Lord their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their Enemies that were round about them, and that they did not show kindness to the House of *Jerubaals*, that is, *Gideons*, according to all the good he had done for *Israel*, especially since we have had thereof so lively proof, in respect of the Services of our Ancestors, in our own Person, even within the Province of *Zealand*. But we hope, that the Lord God Almighty, who hath hitherto so extraordinarily blest us, will yet farther bless our good intention, for the Welfare of the State; And that the good Affection which divers of the Regents, and many good Inhabitants of the Land bear us, will never abate, as shall not the Zeal we have to do good to the State, and we hope, that the ill-affected will in time be-

be cured of the Evil impressions they have taken up against us, nor shall we fail, for the dis-affection of those that are incurable, to further as much as in us is, the Good of the State. We have found our self obliged to be the more large on this Subject, for that we find, that not only the Letter which your No. Mi. was pleased to write us, but likewise the Resolutions containing the Advices of the particular Members of your No. Mi. Assembly, have been made publick in Print, and every where sold, not that we might be informed of your No. Mi. intention, for which it however properly serves, but that matter may be furnished to those, who are ill-affected to us, for that we have done good to the Land, to raise evil impressions in the good Inhabitants against us, and to imprint the same so much the more forcibly, by alleadging, that some Regents had taken an evil suspition concerning our proceeding; by which means we have so much the more reason to presume, that many ill intentioned Persons, have endeavoured onely to make use of this occasion, in which we have

shown

shown so much Candor and Uprightness, to render our Proceedings odious and suspected, though there was not any appearance of Reason to be found for it. We shall conclude this, recommending your No. Mi. into the Merciful Protection of God.

18 *March*, 1675.

Your No. Mi. Friend to serve you
G. H. P. d'Orange.

FINIS.

Hispania.